



Agape Service or Love Feast (28.6.20)

The Agape is a fellowship meal, a very ancient tradition of the Church. It is sacramental in the sense that every shared meal, and every aspect of our life as God's children on God's good earth, can be called sacramental.

During the Agape, food and drink are shared as symbols of fellowship with God and with one another. Agape is the Greek word for love as unconditional self-giving.

If you wish to participate in the meal, you will need to have ready some bread or crackers, as well as something to drink, and other food if you choose.

You may also like to have a candle to light during the service.

Though we are distanced in our separate homes, this service reminds us that we are all one in Christ.

Joining in worship

Jesus said, 'Those who love me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.'

**Here in our homes, Lord,
your Spirit is with us.**

Light of the World, as we light these candles may your truth and love shine in our hearts and dwell in our homes.

For in your light, we see light.

Lord God, our host through all eternity, gathered here we rejoice that your Spirit permeates all creation, inspiring your earth to bring forth food and drink, energy and life.

And now we offer this act of worship back to you, who gives us all.

We light a candle as a sign of God's presence with us

Hymn

**BE STILL, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here;
Come bow before Him now with reverence and fear.
In Him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground;
Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here.**

**Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around;
He burns with holy fire, with splendour He is crowned.
How awesome is the sight, our radiant King of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.**

**Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place;
He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister His grace.
No work too hard for Him, in faith receive from Him;
Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.**

Sharing the blessing

On our hearts and in our houses,
the blessing of God.

In our coming and our going,
the peace of God.

In our life and our believing,
the love of God.

At our end and new beginning,
**the arms of God to welcome us and bring us home.
Amen.**

Hymn

**THE LORD BLESS YOU
And keep you
Make His face shine upon you
And be gracious to you
The Lord turn His
Face toward you
And give you peace**

**Amen, amen, amen
Amen, amen, amen**

**May His favour be upon you
And a thousand generations
Your family and your children
And their children, and their children**

Extracts adapted from:
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Praying together

Prayers of thanksgiving and intercession, ending in the Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

30 seconds of thankfulness

Members of the congregation tell us about the ways God is blessing them during this time of lockdown.

Sharing forgiveness and peace

**Before God, with the people of God,
we confess to our brokenness:
to the ways we wound our lives,
the lives of others, and the life of the world.**

May God forgive us, Christ renew us,
and the Spirit enable us to grow in love.

When we have forgiven each other
the wrongs we do each other, our Father forgives us.
**We forgive each other;
we trust that we are forgiven.**

The peace of the Lord be always with us.
The peace of the Lord be always with us.

Sharing the word

Readings
Genesis 22:1-14
Matthew 10:40 - end

Talk - Jean Pryce-Williams

Sharing food

May this food and drink be a parable of how all created life is meant to be: offered, blessed, enjoyed in communion with God and with one another.

**It is a foretaste of our destiny in Christ,
seated at his banquet table in his coming kingdom.**

And so we offer our food to God.

Let us bless the Lord.

In our gathering

let us bless the Lord.

As grains of wheat scattered on the fields
are gathered to become bread,
**may we who are scattered in many places
become one company in Christ.**

Jesus said, 'I am the bread of life. Those who come to me will never go hungry, and those who believe in me will never be thirsty.'

Jesus said, 'Those who believe in me, out of their hearts will flow streams of living water.'

**Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest,
And may this food by you be blessed.**

Food and drink are shared at this point.

Hymn

**HOW DEEP THE FATHER'S LOVE FOR US,
How vast beyond all measure,
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss –
The Father turns His face away,
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.**

**Behold the man upon a cross,
My sin upon His shoulders;
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life –
I know that it is finished.**

**I will not boast in anything,
No gifts, no power, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer;
But this I know with all my heart –
His wounds have paid my ransom.**