

# 2020 National Day of Prayer Living in Love, Bearing Fruit



Christians are saved to serve. We are chosen and called to bear fruit for Jesus. We do this as we live in His love, not only in our home or church, but in the world, where it is often more difficult to love others. We are empowered by the love that Jesus showed us in His sacrificial death on the cross so that we would have life. Now we are blessed to live in His love, bearing much fruit for His sake. May this prayer service help us take time to reflect on His love for us, our love for Him, and how the fruit we bear is a result of living in His love.



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KAUS 1480 AM Sun. 9:00am



Opening Hymn 901 Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty *sts. 1, 3, 5*

*(pay attention to v. 3)*

1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty; Zi - on, let me  
3 Here Thy praise is glad - ly chant - ed; Here Thy seed is  
5 Speak, O God, and I will hear Thee; Let Thy will be  
en - ter there, Where my soul in joy - ful du - ty  
du - ly sown. Let my soul, where it is plant - ed,  
done in - deed. May I un - dis - turbed draw near Thee  
Waits for Him who an - swers prayer. Oh, how bless - ed  
Bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone, So that all I  
While Thou dost Thy peo - ple feed. Here of life the  
is this place, Filled with sol - ace, light, and grace!  
hear may be Fruit - ful un - to life in me.  
foun - tain flows; Here is balm for all our woes.

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### Invocation

**P:** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** Amen.

### Call to Worship

**P:** Jesus is the Vine and we are the branches

**C:** We can only grow as we are connected to Him!

**P:** He has made us His friends because He loves us.

**C:** We gather in His love, as His friends, to worship Jesus!

**P:** Jesus has chosen each one of us and appointed us to bear fruit for Him.

**C:** Make us fruitful for You, dear Lord, so that others might see Your love in us!

**P:** Live in His love and celebrate His grace as we bear fruit for Jesus!

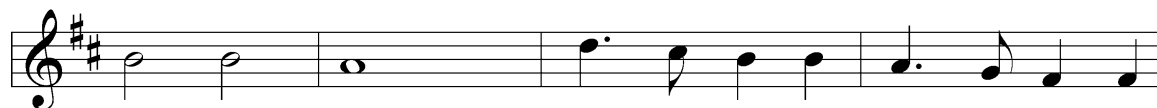
**C:** As You laid down Your life for us, Jesus, may we live our lives for You!

Amen!

Hymn 691 Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing *sts. 1, 4*



1 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's sow - ing, May we rip - en  
4 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's tend - ing, May we grow till



and in - crease, Fruit to life e - ter - nal grow - ing,  
har - vests cease; Till we taste, in life un - end - ing,



Rich in love and joy and peace.  
Heav - en's love and joy and peace.

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### Confession and Absolution

**P:** We come with heavy hearts because we know that we have often failed to bear the fruit of Your love — toward You and toward each other. We have sinned in thought, word, and deed. We come this day seeking Your forgiveness and grace and asking to once again be made fruitful for You as we live in Your love.

**C:** Dear Jesus, we have failed to recognize Your love and grace, not bearing fruit, too often living only for ourselves. You call us friends, but, like Peter, we have betrayed our faith in You and denied You by the way we have treated others and lived. Forgive us, renew us, and restore us as Your friends in Your love. Enable us to bear abundant fruit, fruit that abides, so that many are touched by Your love and come to know You as Savior.

**P:** Jesus comes to us again this day and calls us His friends. In His mercy and grace He bore the cross and purchased our forgiveness by destroying sin and its power to hurt us. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and in His stead, I forgive you all your sins. In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

**C:** Amen.

Hymn 588 Jesus Loves Me *sts. 1, ref, 2*

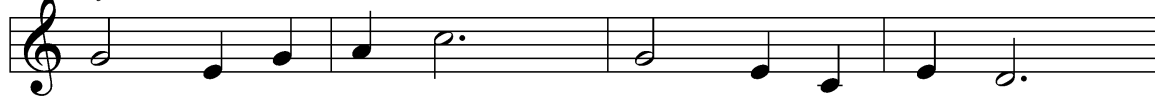


1 Je - sus loves me! This I know, For the Bi - ble tells me so.  
2 Je - sus loves me! He who died Heav-en's gates to o - pen wide.



Lit - tle ones to Him be-long; They are weak, but He is strong.  
He has washed a - way my sin, Lets His lit - tle child come in.

*Refrain*



Yes, Je - sus loves me! Yes, Je - sus loves me!



Yes, Je - sus loves me! The Bi - ble tells me so.

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**Old Testament Lesson Deuteronomy 6:4-9**

<sup>4</sup>“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. <sup>5</sup>You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. <sup>6</sup>And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. <sup>7</sup>You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. <sup>8</sup>You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. <sup>9</sup>You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

**Prayer**

**P**: Lord, help us to love You with all our heart, all our mind, and all our soul so all that we do reflects that love to the world. Thank You for Your Word of life. Help us teach it to our children and to the whole world, so that people might be connected to Jesus.

**C**: Amen.

## Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to love God with ALL your heart, soul, and might?
2. What is God's expectation for those who have His words on their heart?
3. What are the implications for how we live out our faith in the world?

## Hymn 700 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling *sts. 1-2*

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of  
2 Breathe, O breathe Thy lov - ing Spir - it In - to  
heav'n, to earth come down! Fix in us Thy  
ev - 'ry trou - bled breast; Let us all in  
hum - ble dwell - ing, All Thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.  
Thee in - her - it; Let us find Thy prom - ised rest.  
Je - sus, Thou art all com - pas - sion, Pure, un -  
Take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha  
bound - ed love Thou art; Vis - it us with  
and O - me - ga be; End of faith, as  
Thy sal - va - tion, En - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.  
its be - gin - ning, Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.

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## Epistle Lesson Romans 12:9-18

<sup>9</sup>Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. <sup>10</sup>Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup>Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. <sup>14</sup>Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

<sup>15</sup>Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup>Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. <sup>17</sup>Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup>If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

### Discussion Questions:

- 1) How can we genuinely live in the love of Jesus?
- 2) Why does Paul place such an emphasis on love within the body of Christ?
- 3) What is the natural outgrowth of such love and how is it displayed in us?
- 4) How might we live peaceably with all?

### Prayer

**P:** We thank You for Your amazing love for us, and Your grace that empowers our love for others. Help us be people of peace with servant hearts filled with compassion. Allow Your love for us to overflow into the lives of those around us, so that our faith might be fruitful.

**C:** Amen.

### Hymn 700 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling *sts. 3-4*

3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; Let us  
 4 Fin - ish then Thy new cre - a - tion, Pure and

all Thy life re - ceive; Sud - den - ly re -  
 spot - less let us be; Let us see Thy

turn, and nev - er, Nev - er - more Thy tem - ples leave.  
 great sal - va - tion Per - fect - ly re - stored in Thee,

Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, Serve Thee  
 Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, Till in

as Thy hosts a - bove, Pray and praise Thee  
 heav'n we take our place, Till we cast our  
 with - out ceas - ing, Glo - ry in Thy per - fect love.  
 crowns be - fore Thee, Lost in won - der, love, and praise!

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### Gospel Lesson John 15:5, 12–17

<sup>5</sup>“I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.”

<sup>12</sup>“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. <sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup> No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup> You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. <sup>17</sup> These things I command you, so that you will love one another.”

### Prayer

**P:** Help us heed Your commandment to love, dear Jesus. And help us always remember that You have chosen us in grace, claimed us, and sent us to bear fruit for You in the world all around us. Thank You that we not only call You Lord, but have been made Your friends.

**C:** Amen.

## Discussion Questions:

1. What happens when a branch is severed from a vine, and what does Jesus' illustration tell us about our faith life in Him?
2. What does it mean to be a friend of Jesus, and what might be, some characteristics of this friendship?
3. How many commandments did Jesus give and what were they? (*See: Matthew 22:37-39*)
  - a. Love the Lord with all your heart.
  - b. Love your neighbor as yourself.
4. Jesus chose us, and appointed each of us, to bear fruit.  
What is the fruit we are to bear?
5. How can we bear fruit for Jesus wherever He has placed us?

## Hymn 651 I Love Your Kingdom, Lord *sts. 1, 3*



1 I love Your king - dom, Lord, The place of Your a - bode,  
3 I love Your Church, O God, Your saints in ev - 'ry land,



The Church our blest Re - deem - er saved With His own pre - cious blood.  
Dear as the ap - ple of Your eye And grav - en on Your hand.

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## Apostles' Creed

**☩:I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life † everlasting. Amen.**



## Lord's Prayer

**P**: Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

**C**: **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

## Closing Hymn 827 Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling *sts. 1–2, 4*



1 Hark, the voice of Je - sus call - ing, "Who will go and work to - day?  
2 Some take up His task in morn - ing, To their Lord re - spond - ing soon;  
4 Hear - ken to the Lord whose com - ing Marks the time when grace shall end,



Fields are white and har - vests wait - ing— Who will bear the sheaves a - way?"  
Some are called in heat of mid - day, Oth - ers late in af - ter - noon;  
When with His an - gel - ic reap - ers He in glo - ry shall de - scend.



Loud and long the Mas - ter call - eth; Rich re - ward He of - fers thee.  
E - ven as the sun is set - ting, Some are sent in - to the fields,  
Soon the night, the fi - nal har - vest; Soon the time for work shall cease.



Who will an - swer, glad - ly say - ing, "Here am I, send me, send me"?  
There to gath - er in the boun - ty That God's Word so rich - ly yields.  
Then the souls His grace has gar - nered Shall en - joy His Sab - bath peace.

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## Benediction

**P**: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C**: **Amen!**

## **Sending**

**P:** Jesus sends us into the world as friends, chosen to bear fruit for His Kingdom. Will you go then, in His power, to bear fruit as you live in love and shine His light for all the world to see?

**C:** Yes.

**P:** Then go forth in His grace, empowered by His Spirit to live in His love and bear abundant fruit for Jesus!

**C:** Amen!



Written by The Rev. Dr. Gregory S. Walton,  
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