

— THE ORDER OF THE LOVE FEAST —

The Announcements

The Occasion

The Opening Hymn

The Prayer

The Scripture Lesson

*The Purpose of a Love Feast*

**HYMN #242 – "A CHARGE TO KEEP I HAVE"**

*Names of persons for special prayer may be lifted up at this time*

**Luke 2:41-52 (NIV2011)**

• *First Sunday after Christmas Day: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52*•

<sup>41</sup> Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. <sup>42</sup> When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. <sup>43</sup> After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. <sup>44</sup> Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup> When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. <sup>46</sup> After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup> Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup> When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."

<sup>49</sup> "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" <sup>50</sup> But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>51</sup> Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. <sup>52</sup> And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

The Hymn

**HYMN #410 – "AM I A SOLDIER OF THE CROSS"**

The Witness

*A time of testimony and thanksgiving*

The General Rules

**The Don'ts, The Do's, and the Must's!**

The Exhortation

**PASTOR WILLIAM HALE**

The Invitation to Christian Discipleship

The Altar Call & Worship in Giving

The Welcome

The Love Feast

*Bread and water are distributed to the Celebrants.*

*Those present shall rise and pinch from the bread of fellow Celebrants, shaking hands afterwards, water is sipped in unison.*

*The bread is collected and is NOT eaten when it is broken and shared. In no instance shall bread be pinched and shared and then eaten.*

The Apostle's Creed

*"Let us affirm our common faith..."*

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, dead, and buried. The third day he arose from the dead; he ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Church universal, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. AMEN!

The Closing Hymn

**HYMN #522 – "BLEST BE THE TIES THAT BIND"**

The Benediction

*Amen! AMEN! AMEN!*

THE OPENING HYMN

**"A CHARGE TO KEEP I HAVE"**

*Charles Wesley*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. A charge to keep I have,<br>a God to glorify,<br>a never-dying soul to save,<br>and fit it for the sky.         | 3. Arm me with jealous care,<br>as in thy sight to live,<br>and oh, thy servant, Lord, prepare<br>a strict account to give! |
| 2. To serve the present age,<br>my calling to fulfill;<br>O may it all my powers engage<br>to do my Master's will! | 4. Help me to watch and pray,<br>and on thyself rely,<br>assured, if I my trust betray,<br>I shall forever die.             |

THE LOVE FEAST

Love Feasts are devotional services, not sacraments (*such as Holy Communion or Baptism*), and are customarily observed to spiritually prepare its church for Holy Communion. Love Feasts may be conducted by the Pastor, a class leader, or the Pastor's appointee. The Feasts are usually held within a week before the Communion Service.

The Order of Service that follows is an adaptation from instructions found in "Methodist Polity" (1885), by Bishop H. M. Turner, and popular usage throughout the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

**OUR GENERAL RULES (Abbreviated)**

There is only one condition previously required of those who desire admission into these [Methodist] societies: a "desire to flee from the wrath to come and to be saved from their sins." But wherever this is really fixed in the soul, it will be shown by its fruits.

*It is therefore expected of all who continue therein that they shall continue to evidence their desire of salvation, First [DON'TS]: By doing no harm, by avoiding evil of every kind, especially that which is most generally practiced: such as: The taking of the name of God in vain [Exodus 20:7]; the profaning the day of the Lord [Exodus 20:8-11; Nehemiah 13:15-18]; Drunkenness [Romans 13:13; Galatians 5:21; 1 Peter 4:3]; Fighting, quarreling, brawling [1 Corinthians 3:3; 2 Corinthians 12:20; 2 Timothy 2:14]... etc.*

*It is expected of all who continue in these societies that they should continue to evidence their desire of salvation, Secondly [DO'S]: By doing good; by being in every kind merciful after their power; as they have opportunity, doing good of every possible sort, and, as far as possible, to all men: To their bodies [Luke 7:20-23; Matthew 25:31-46]; To their souls [2 Timothy 4:1-5; 1 Timothy 6:3-12]; By doing good [Galatians 6:10; John 15:9-19]; By running with patience the race which is set before them, denying themselves, and taking up their cross daily [Hebrews 12:1; Luke 9:23; 1 Peter 4:14; 1 Corinthians 4:13; Matthew 5:11].*

*It is expected of all who desire to continue in these societies that they should continue to evidence their desire of salvation, Thirdly [MUST'S]: By attending upon all the ordinances of God: such are, the public worship of God [1 Corinthians 14:26; Hebrews 10:25; 1 Timothy 4:13]; the ministry of the Word, either read or expounded [Acts 6:4; 2 Timothy 4:2; 1 Timothy 4:13]; the Supper of the Lord [Luke 22:17-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26]; Family and private prayer [Acts 2:42-47; Matthew 6:5-8]; Searching the Scriptures [John 5:39; 2 Timothy 3:16]; Fasting and abstinence [Matthew 6:16-18].*

These are the General Rules of our societies; all of which we are taught of God to observe, even in His written Word, which is the only rule, and the sufficient rule, both of our faith and practice. — *John & Charles Wesley - May 1, 1743*

**LIVE • LOVE • LEARN**

## TEACHING MOMENTS

### Next Week's Scripture Lessons:

Epiphany of the Lord – Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

Church School for ALL Ages – 9:30am *Every Sunday*

Pastor's Bible Study – Every Wednesday @ 11:00am (*Resumes NEXT Week on Wednesday, January 9, 2019!*)

## CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS

Announcements...

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays...

## OUR SICK & SHUT-IN

Prayer List...

## The First Sunday of Christmas

# Welcome to SAINT PAUL!



The Rt. Reverend Jeffrey N. Leath, *Presiding Bishop*



The Reverend Kenneth J. Golphin, *Presiding Elder*



Evangelist Gayle Lang, *Licentiate*



Sister Tanya S. Clark, *Exhorter*



Pastor William R. T. Hale

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December 30, 2018

11:00 a.m.



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