

— 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

Matthew 2:13-23 (NIV2011)

First Sunday after Christmas Day: Isaiah 63:7-9 • Psalm 148 • Hebrews 2:10-18 • Matthew 2:13-23

¹³ **When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."**

¹⁴ **So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, ¹⁵ where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."**

¹⁶ **When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. ¹⁷ Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:**

¹⁸ **"A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more."**

¹⁹ **After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt ²⁰ and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead."**

²¹ **So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, ²³ and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.**

The Witness

A time of testimony and thanksgiving

The General Rules

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

The Hymn

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

The Exhortation

EVANGELIST GAYLE LANG

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 & Benediction

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

THE OPENING HYMN

"A CHARGE TO KEEP I HAVE"

Charles Wesley

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

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TEACHING MOMENTS

Next Week's Scripture Lessons:

Second Sunday after Christmas Day – Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:(1-9), 10-18
Church School for ALL Ages – 8:00am *Every Sunday*
Pastor's Bible Study – Every Wednesday @ 7:00pm

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

Cell: 859.339.1721 call/text

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December 29, 2019

9:30 a.m.



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