

1 Corinthians 13: 1-7

- This morning, on Valentine's Day, as people across the country are celebrating and focusing on love, we too will be doing that. However, instead of focusing on the love we may have for a spouse or romantic interest, we will focus on the love we are called to have for all people.
- There are many text that I could have used today for us to walk through but I decided to use one that is very well known and often times very well quoted at weddings; 1 Corinthians 13.
- But, this text is not just about weddings, if even at all. It is supposed to be a guide for the way in which we are to love each other as Christians. It is a guide to the ultimate love that Jesus has for us and how we are to live into that love with others.
- As Christians, we are told to love God and love others. We talk about love all of the time but what does it actually mean to love and to be love.
- In Paul's letter to the Corinthian Church, he explains what love is and attributes of it. This morning, and every day, as we strive to grow more and more into God's perfect love, let us all prayerfully meditate on

these words from Paul as we allow them to transform our hearts, minds, and souls so that we can be love.

- This morning, instead of a typical sermon, we will be doing something a little bit different. I will be leading a guided meditation on the Word. I will read a verse, verses, or part of a verse, pause for reflection, and then lead us in some guided questions to think about.
- I want to invite you all to get comfortable and in a position where you can allow the Holy Spirit to move through you as we allow this scripture passage to pierce and transform our hearts, minds, and souls.
- If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.
- And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.
- If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.
- Love is patient;

- love is kind;
- love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude.
- It does not insist on its own way;
- it is not irritable or resentful;
- it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth.
- It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
- Love never ends
- Let us now look forward to this week and all coming weeks as we find ways that we can be love. Especially here in a broken world in a time when it may appear that all we see and have around us, at least if we look to the news or social media, is hate.
- Let us all be sure to be that love here in this community not just to our friends and family but to everyone that we meet.

- Go forth filled with the love of God, filled with the Holy Spirit, and may we all be love. Amen.