

Traditional Service

8:30 am

Prelude

The Gift of Love
(Composer: English/Larson)

Welcome

Announcements

Call to Worship

This is the day the Lord has made;
Let us rejoice and be glad in it

Opening Hymn

Come Down, O Love Divine #234

Responsive Reading

Psalm 36:5-10

Your love, LORD, reaches to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the skies.

**Your righteousness is like the highest mountains, your
justice like the great deep. You, LORD, preserve both
people and animals.**

How priceless is your unfailing love, O God! People take refuge in
the shadow of your wings.

**They feast on the abundance of your house; you give them
drink from your river of delights.**

For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.

**Continue your love to those who know you, your
righteousness to the upright in heart.**

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Merciful God, you forgive all who truly repent and turn to you. We humbly
confess our sins and ask your mercy. We have not loved you with a pure
heart, nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves. We have not done
justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly with you, our God. We have
not loved our enemies. Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-
kindness. In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin. Create in
us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us, that we may
be reflections of your love in the world, like light shining in the darkness.
This we pray through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

(People silently offer their personal confessions to God.)

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Pastor: Friends, believe the Good News:

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Response

Glory be to the Father #961

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be
World without end. Amen, Amen.

Passing the Peace

Anthem

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing
(Composer: Jeffrey Cardwell)

Scripture Readings

Matthew 5:38-48

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Love Beyond Reason
*The Way of Jesus: Living out the
Sermon on the Mount*

Musical Reflection

**La Alborada de la Esperanza (The
Dawn of Hope)**
(Composer: José L. Elizondo)

Doxology

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him, all creatures here below
Praise Him, above ye heavenly hosts
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Closing Hymn

The Servant Song #309

Benediction

Postlude

Theme & Variation
(Composer: Joseph Haydn)

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Welcome & Sermon	Greg Buell
Liturgy (8:30)	Ed Burton
Worship Leader (10:00)	Luke Stoner
Praise Music	Village Church Worship Band
Scripture Reader	Sandy Mauk (8:30)
	Elaine Holmquist (10:00)
Prayers of the People	Rich Blue (8:30)
	Roger Smith (10:00)
Organist (8:30)	Sharon Peterson
Flute Soloist (8:30)	Kim Fleuchaus

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Contemporary Service

10:00 am

Questions for Discussion

Welcome and Call to Worship

Praise and Prayer

House of the Lord

King of Kings

Prayer of Confession

What a Beautiful Name

Passing the Peace

Announcements

(Offerings are received weekly via mail and online giving at <https://villagechurchnorthbrook.org/give/>. Those attending live worship can leave their donations in the offering plates at the back of the sanctuary.)

Scripture Reading

Matthew 5:38-48

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Sermon

Love Beyond Reason

The Way of Jesus: Living out the Sermon on the Mount

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Closing Song

Reckless Love

Blessing

Opening Discussion

Why is it hard to love your enemies?

Read Matthew 5:38-48

Digging Deeper:

1. The commandment referred to in verse 38 was a guideline for fair punishment and compensation when someone was wronged. How might it be misinterpreted and used for vengeance?
2. What the examples given in verses 39 to 42 have in common? Why is this counterintuitive?
3. How did Jesus embody his own teaching in verses 38 – 42?
4. What is the purpose of loving our enemies? (see verses 45 and 48)
5. What is Jesus' point in verses 46 and 47?
6. How does loving our enemies reflect the heart of God?

Application for Life

1. Who are the people in your life that you find hardest to love, and why?
2. How does praying for your enemies help you love them? What types of things might you lift up in prayer?
3. Identify the things in your heart which make it hard to love others, and pray for God to renew a right spirit within you.
4. Pray for God to bless the enemies in your life.

Prayer Concerns & Closing Prayer

Sign up for email list



Sign up for our online community



Program Staff

Spencer Lundgaard, Senior Pastor

Greg Buell, Associate Pastor for Discipleship & Caring Ministries

Ed Burton, Minister of Family Ministries

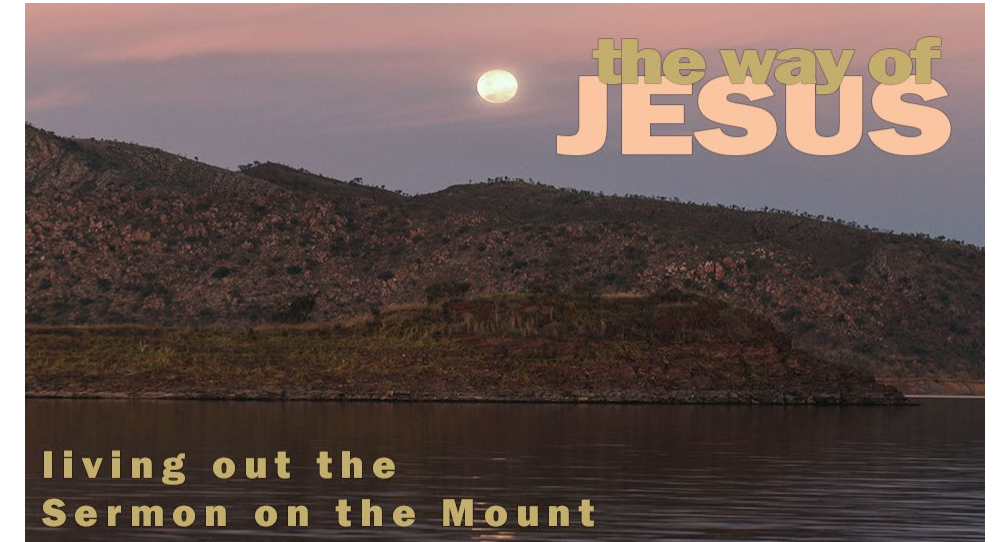
Luke Stoner, Minister of Contemporary Worship/Sr. High Youth

The Village Church

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Summer Worship
July 23, 2023