

FIRST CHURCH CELEBRATION WORSHIP

[01.10.21]

Scripture: John 13:34-35
Message: Love Really is the Answer
Songs: *Hallelujah*
The Power of the Cross
Be Thou My Vision [#382]
How Deep the Father's Love For Us
They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love

Participating in Worship

Thank you to Andi Dykstra, Judy Steenhoek, Toy Miller, Mike Melody, Ashley Uitermarkt, Brad Uitermarkt, Riley Braafhart and Janeva Van Haaften for leading us in worship.
Pastor Bob Johnson



01.17 Oneness: Bridging the Divide
01.24 The Power of the Gospel
01.31 No Partiality
02.07 Diversity is Forever
02.14 Grace Relations



LOVE REALLY IS THE ANSWER

JOHN 13:34-35
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WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE BIBLE IS MISUSED?

- Slavery in the Bible vs. Race based slavery.
- What happened to the Baptists? To the Methodist Episcopal Church?
- A brief look at the American Indians.

THE POWER OF LOVE AND THE POWER OF TRUTH

- "They were treated like family."
- "Love brings and slaves didn't have freedom or choice. Family doesn't leave family in bondage."

WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO BE AWARE: OUR SHARED PAST

- What happened after Emancipation Proclamation & the 13th Amendment?
- Jim Crow Laws & Plessy vs. Ferguson
- The story of Mary Turner
- The Homestead Act & The Indian Removal Act
- 1965 & Beyond

AN INVITATION TO EMPATHIZE

- A pause to pray

MOVING FORWARD: HOPE AND LOVE

- **Give Hope**
Therefore I, the prisoner in the Lord, urge you to walk worthy of the calling you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope at your calling— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. Ephesians 4:1-6
- **Practice inclusive all nations ministry** [The Great Commission]
- **Build multi-cultural relationships** [1 Corinthians 9:19-23]

"The greatest gift my friendship can give to you is the gift of your Belovedness. I can give that gift only insofar as I have claimed it for myself. Isn't that what friendship is all about: giving to each other the gift of our Belovedness...there is that voice...that whispers softly or declares loudly 'You are my Beloved, on you my favor rests.'"

-Henri Nouwen