Love Feast

Grace family we have been instructed ***not*** to engage in the Lord’s Supper on tomorrow which is our Communion Sunday. Rather we are to participate in a Love Feast. There is information that may be used in doing a Love Feast. Remember it is to be an informal gathering at the table with family in your home at this time. Emphasis is being placed on your family or friends in your home. Please do not invite neighbors to join you due to the covid-19. If you live alone, take the time to include a family member, neighbor, friend, etc. to participate in your love feast via facetime, telephone call or any other avenue of communication. You may hear that other churches are doing something entirely different, but what I am suggesting we do is in compliance with the Bishop’s directive.

The Love Feast is a Christian fellowship meal recalling the meals Jesus shared with disciples during his ministry and expressing the koinonia (community, sharing, fellowshipping) enjoyed by the family of Christ.

Important Points of Interest:

1. The Love Feast is very different from the Lord’s Supper
2. Report on what God has been doing in your lives
3. Share the hope and trust you have in God for the future
4. The Love Feast has often been held on occasions when the celebration of the Lord’s Supper would be inappropriate--where there is no one present authorized to administer the Sacrament, when persons of different denominations do not feel free to take Holy Communion together, when there is a desire for a service more informal and spontaneous than the communion ritual, or at a full meal or some other setting to which it would be difficult to adapt the Lord’s Supper.
5. If you are sitting at the table with two or more, someone should be designated the leader in carrying out the Love Feast. If you are alone, and you invite others to join you via facetime, telephone call, etc. a person should take the lead in carrying out the Love Feast. In conducting the Love Feast, you expect some of the following to take place:

* Testimonies and praises are shared in regards to what God has been doing in the lives of others.
* Praise may take the form of hymns, songs, choruses
* Freely being in conversation with each other
* Prayer is vital to the Love Feast (Spontaneous, Lord’s Prayer, etc.)
* Read Scripture
* Most Love Feasts include the sharing of food. Do not use communion bread, wine, or grape juice, for it is not to be confused with the Lord’s Supper. The bread may be regular bread, crackers, rolls, or sweet bread baked especially for this service. The bread, crackers, etc. may be passed around and shared if more than one person is at the table. The beverages may be water, lemonade, tea, apple juice, orange juice, or coffee. The food is served quietly at the same time the service is taking place.
* The Love Feast may be a full meal. The objective is to share love, messages and food with those gathered around the table

A Brief Informal Order of Participating at the Table:

1. Open with prayer: Be present at our table, Lord; Be here and everywhere adored; Thy creatures bless, and grant that we may feast in paradise with Thee. Father of earth and heaven, thy hungry children feed, thy grace be to our spirits given, that true immortal bread. Grant us and all our people in Jesus Christ to prove the sweetness of thy pardoning grace, the manna of thy love. Amen! Please feel free to use your own prayer.
2. Suggested Scriptures:

* 1 Corinthians 13
* 2 Corinthians 9:6-15
* Philippians 2:5-11
* 1 John 4:7-21
* Matthew 22:34-40
* Luke 9:12-17
* Luke 14: 16-24
* John 6:25-35

1. Discuss one or more of the scriptures
2. You may feast as all of this is taking place
3. Share testimonies, prayers, songs, etc.
4. Dismissal

Please do not stress yourself. What is important is the fact that you are gathered around a table and feasting, praying, witnessing, testifying, sharing scripture, conversing about scripture, etc.

I am asking that we all conduct our Love Feast at 11:00 a.m. tomorrow, Sunday, April 5, 2020. If that does not work for you, select a time for yourself. Again, if there is not another person in the home with you, reach out to others by way of telephone, facetime, etc.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Pastor Slade