



Photo by James Gardner

Sunday, February 4, 2024

Culmore
United Methodist Church

Welcome and
Good Morning!

Happy Birthday!

Once again it's your birthday. Once again the time is here.
What a loving gift from Jesus, He has given you one more year.
Happy time is your birthday, happy time this year.
What a loving gift from Jesus, He has given you one more year.
Oh happy birthday to you, oh happy birthday to you.
For you have Jesus Christ everyday of your life.
Oh happy birthday to you, oh happy birthday to you.
The Lord bless and keep you.
Happy birthday to you. And to Jesus with you.
God bless you and keep you. Happy birthday to you.





Be Thou My Vision - UMH 451

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art—
thou my best thought, by day or by night;
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
Great God of heaven, you are my treasure.

Great God of heaven, my victory won.
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Ephesians

THE WONDER

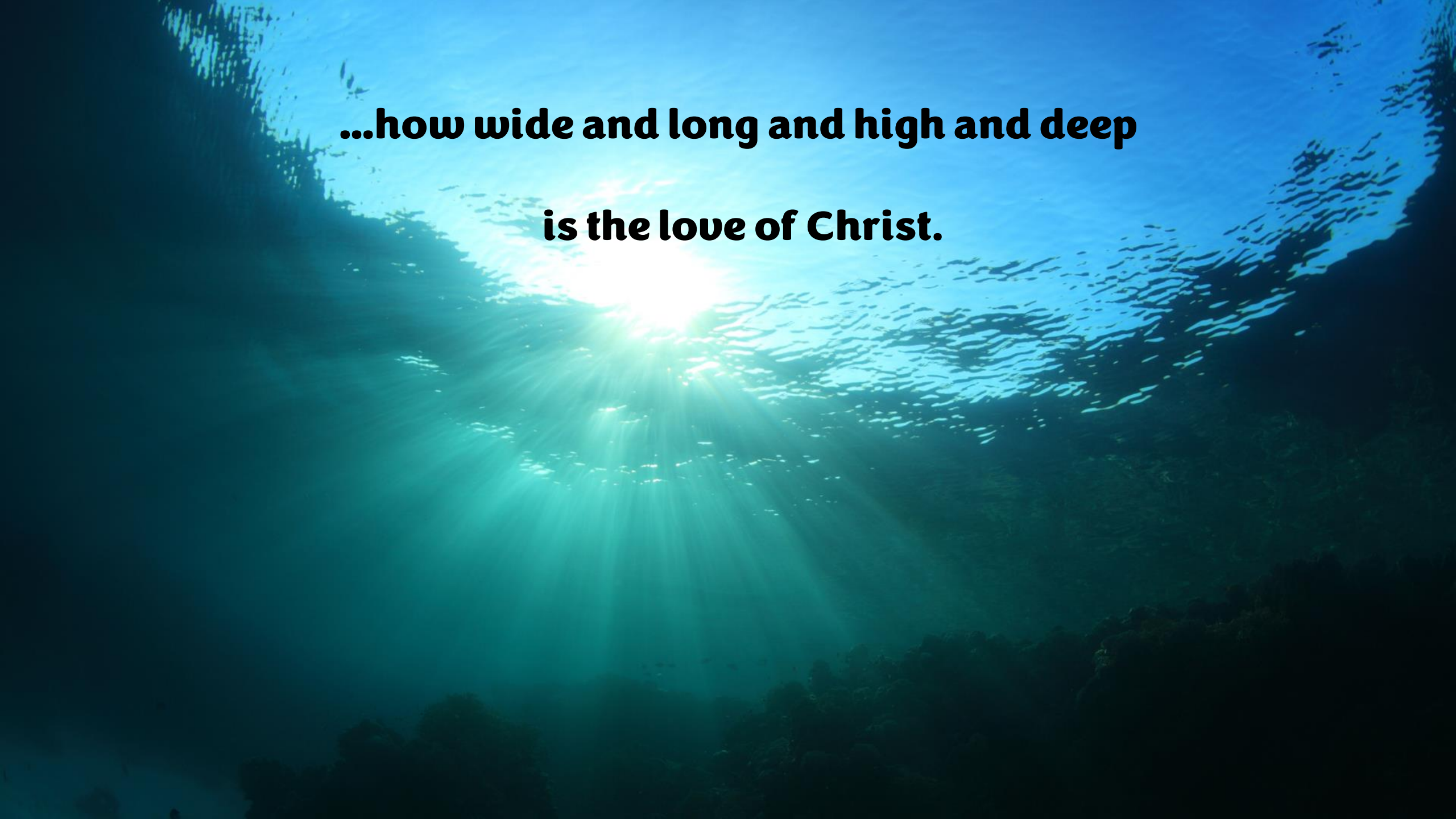
AND WALK OF BEING

ALIVE

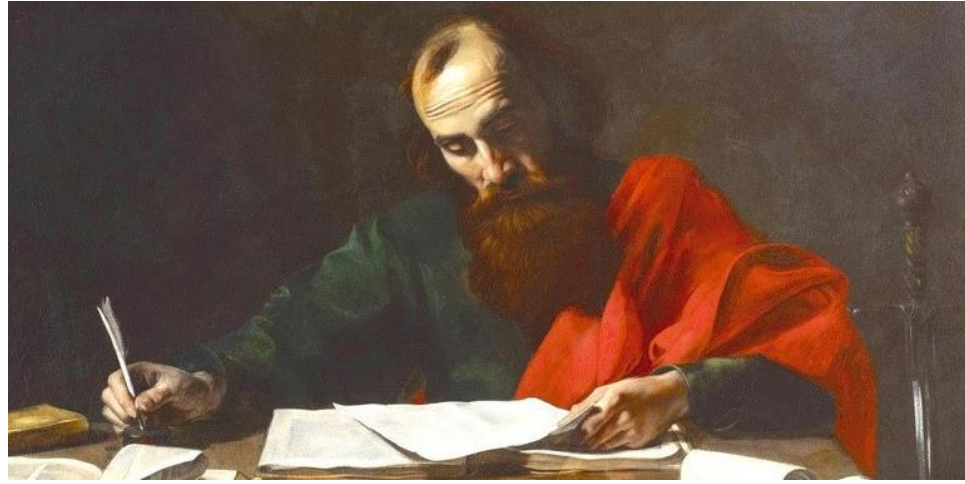
IN CHRIST

DARRELL JOHNSON

**...how wide and long and high and deep
is the love of Christ.**



Ephesians 4: 1-6



Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord,
implore you to walk in a manner worthy of
the calling with which you have been called...

..with all **humility** and **gentleness**, with **patience**,
showing **tolerance** for one another in love,
being diligent to **preserve the unity of the Spirit**
in the bond of peace...



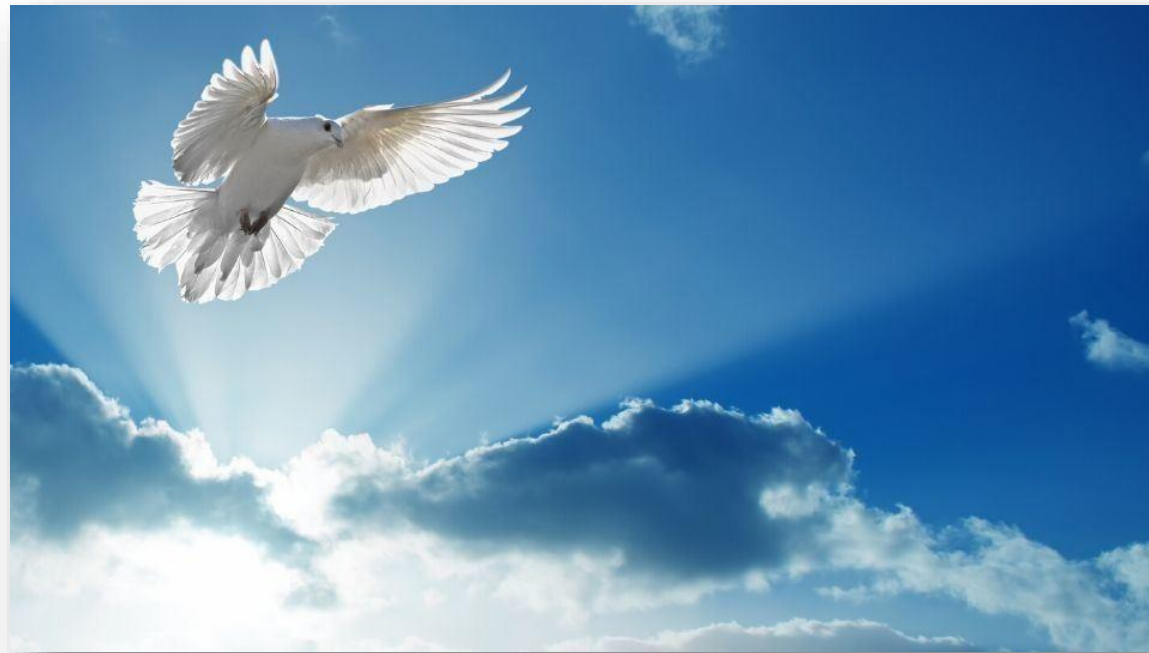
There is one body and one Spirit, just as also
you were called in one hope of your calling;

one Lord,
one faith,
one baptism;



Art by Sue Carroll

...one God and Father of all,
who is over all and through all and in all.



行走.....帶着一切谦卑、溫柔、耐心，
在愛中表現出對彼此的寬容

Berjalanlah...dengan segala kerendahan hati dan kelembutan,
dengan penuh kesabaran, saling toleransi dalam kasih

Walk ...with all humility and gentleness, with patience,
showing tolerance for one another in love.

Caminen... con toda humildad y mansedumbre, con paciencia,
siendo tolerantes unos con otros en amor.

謙虚さと優しさを尽くし、忍耐強く、愛においてお互いに寛容を示して歩きなさい。

Lumakad ...nang may buong pagpapakumbaba at kahinahunan, na may pagtitiis, na nagpapakita ng pagpaparaya sa isa't isa sa pag-ibig.

모든 겸손과 온유로 행하고 오래
참음으로 사랑 안에서 서로 용납하고

Marchez... en toute humilité et douceur, avec patience, en faisant preuve de tolérance les uns envers les autres dans l'amour.

සියලු නිහතමානී භාවයෙන් හා මෘදුකමින්, ඉවසීමෙන්,
ආදරයෙන් එකිනෙකාට ඉවසීම පෙන්වමින් ඇවිදින්න

Ephesians 4: 35

Be kind to one another,
compassionate, forgiving each
other, just as God in Christ
also has forgiven you.





Three things in life are important:
the first is to be kind;
the second is to be kind;
and the third is to be kind.”

—Henry James



There is a realm of time where the goal is:
not to have but to be,
not to own but to give,
not to control but to share,
not to subdue but to be in accord.

—*Rabbi Abraham Heschel*

Opening Prayer

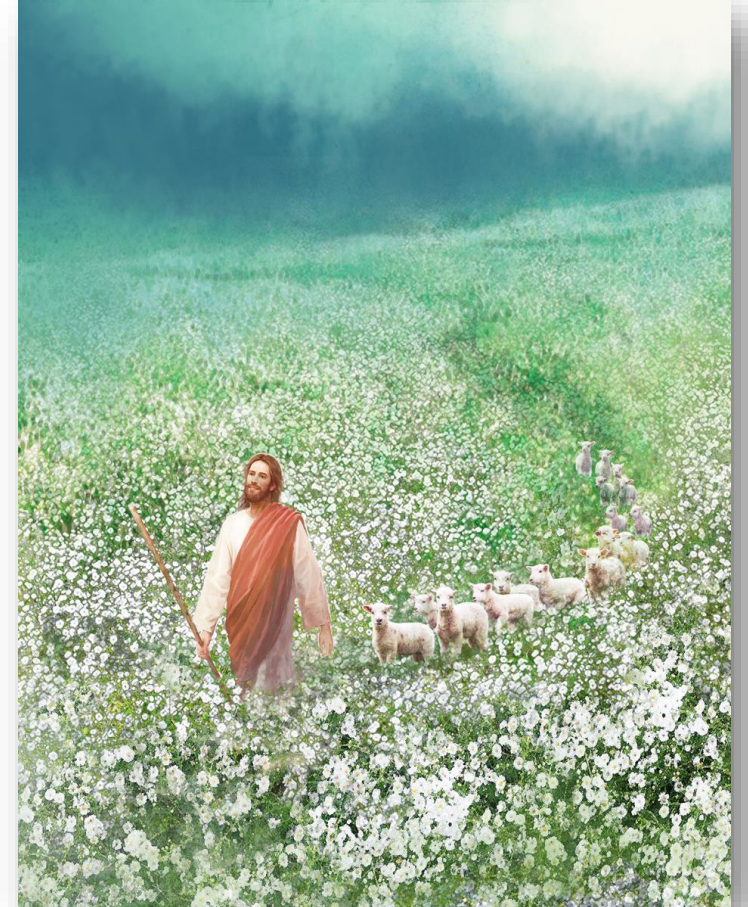
Eternal and loving Lord,

How clearly You have told us to be kind. How hard is that to grasp?

How many times You have told us to love one another. Why can't we comprehend this? Why do we try to convince ourselves that You didn't really mean what You said?

Jesus, help us grasp your loving kindness
and lead us into ever deepening love with
one another, just like you have shown us.

Amen





Many Gifts, One Spirit

God of change and glory,
God of time and space,
When we fear the future,
Give to us your grace.
In the midst of changing ways
Give us still the grace to praise.

God of many colors,
God of many signs,
You have made us different,
Blessing many kinds.
As the old ways disappear,
Let your love cast out our fear.

Freshness of the morning,
Newness of each night,
You are still creating
Endless love and light.
This we see, as shadows part,
Many gifts from one great heart.

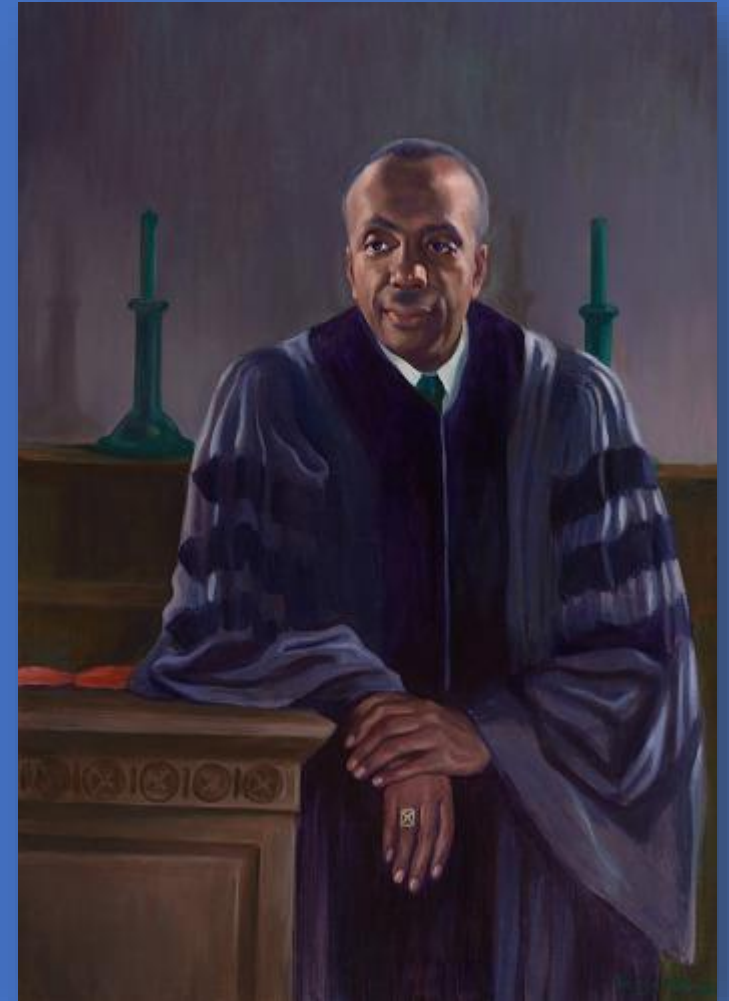
Many gifts, one Spirit,
One love known in many ways.
In our difference is blessing,
From diversity we praise.

One Giver, one Lord, One Spirit, one Word
Known in many ways, Hallowing our days.
For the Giver, for the gifts, Praise, praise, praise!

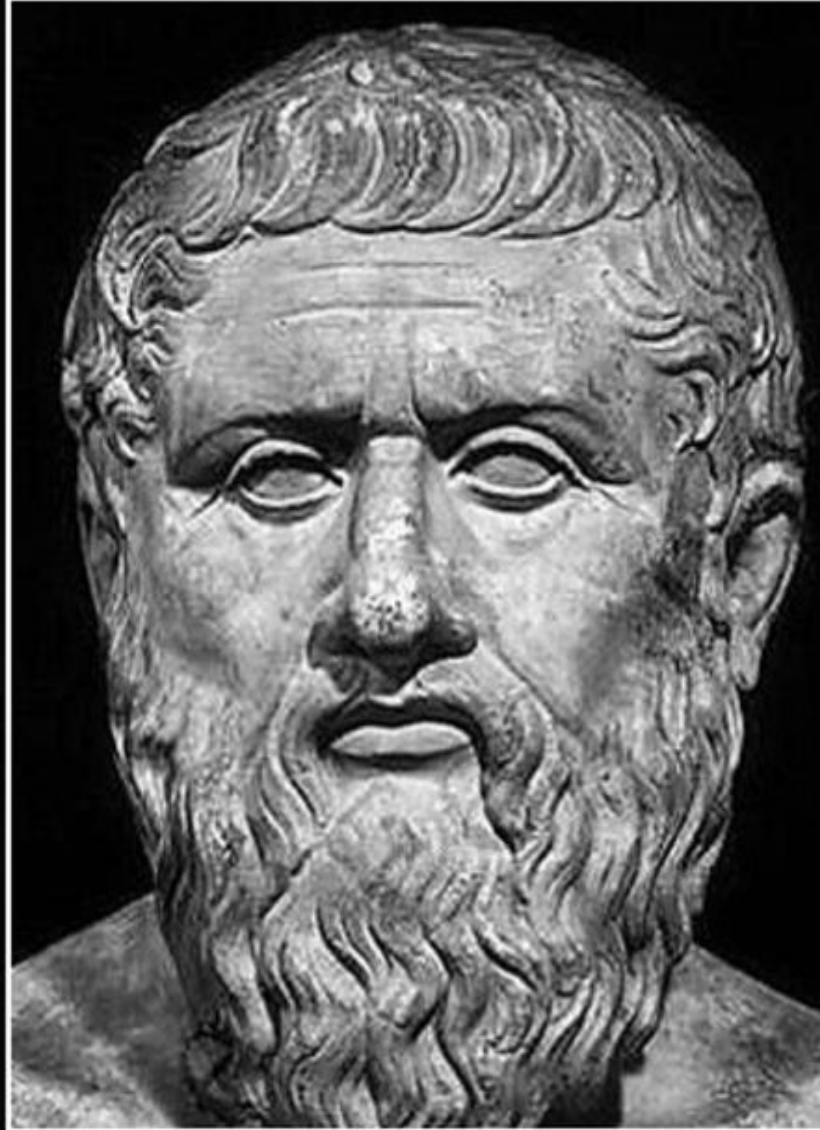
*We belong to each other, and those
who shut themselves away diminish
themselves....*

When community is missing, we are lost.

—Dr. Howard Thurman







I've made up my mind, don't
confuse me with the facts.

— *Plato* —













THAT'S NOT FAIR!





Who remembers math class ?



Wasn't it fun?

Who remembers fractions?

$$\frac{4}{7}$$

numerator

denominator

Can you add

$$\frac{2}{3} + \frac{1}{6} + \frac{2}{12}$$

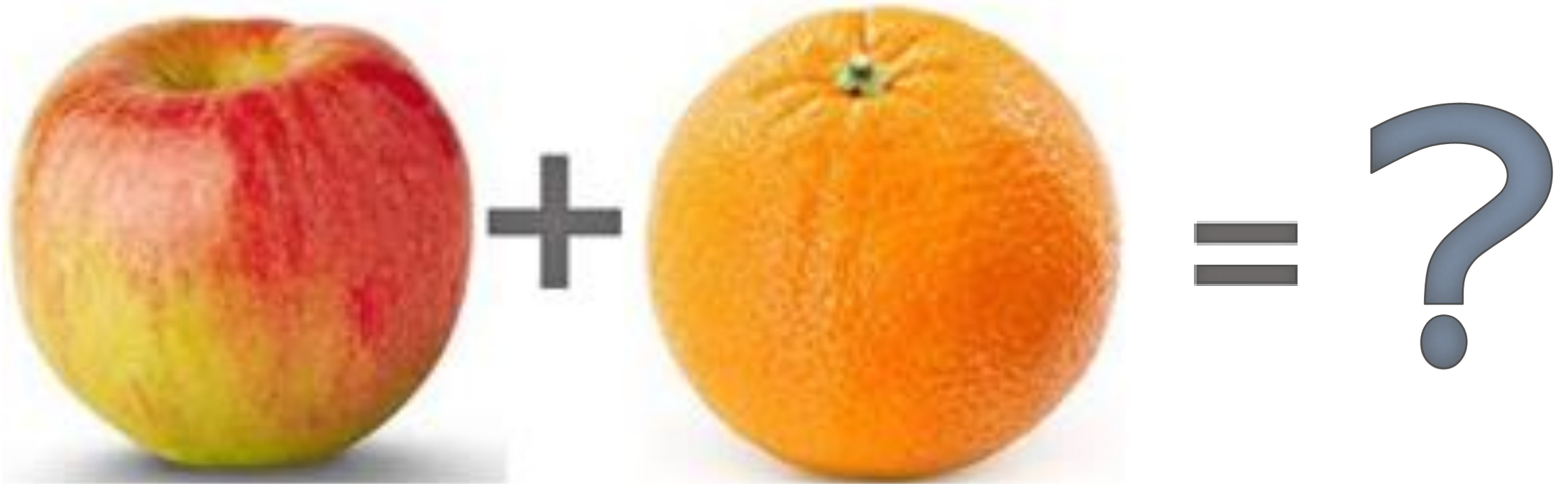
together ?

But when you discover the
common denominator...

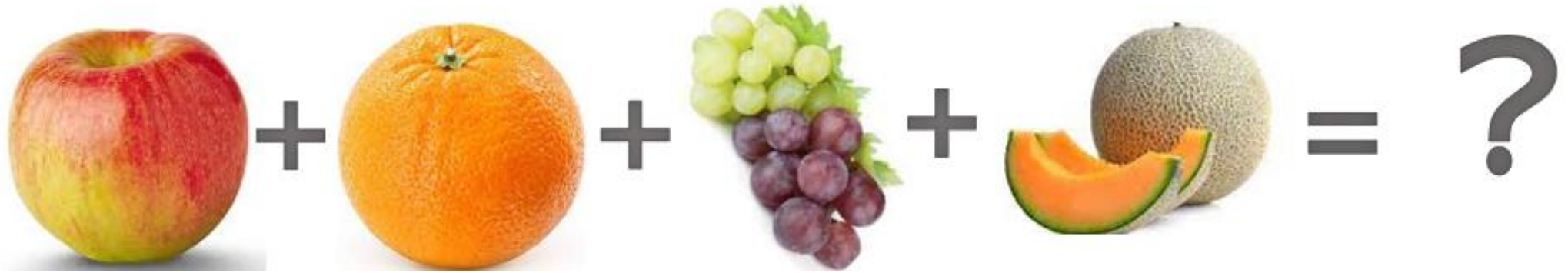
The diagram illustrates the process of finding a common denominator for the fractions $\frac{2}{3}$, $\frac{1}{6}$, and $\frac{2}{12}$. A large black arrow points from the initial fractions to the converted fractions. The converted fractions are $\frac{8}{12}$, $\frac{2}{12}$, and $\frac{2}{12}$, which are then summed to equal $\frac{12}{12}$, which simplifies to 1. A grey oval highlights the converted fractions and the resulting sum.

$$\frac{2}{3} + \frac{1}{6} + \frac{2}{12} \Rightarrow \frac{8}{12} + \frac{2}{12} + \frac{2}{12} = \frac{12}{12} = 1$$

...it all adds up!



Trying to add fractions with different denominators is like adding....



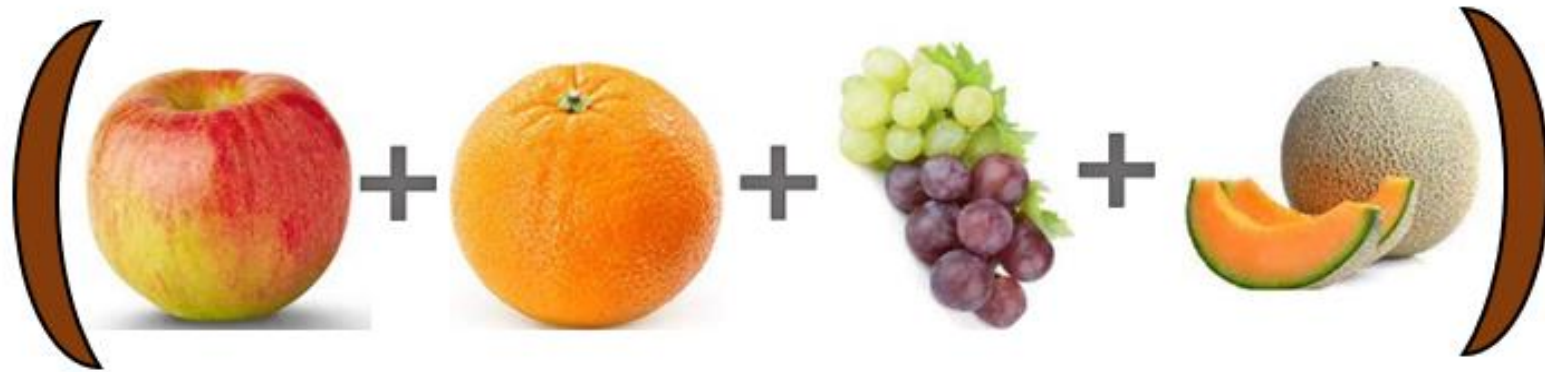
They just don't add up!

When our common denominator
becomes the love of God and
faith in Christ, our differences
can bind us together.

Galatians 5: 22-23a; 25-26

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control... Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.





+

Love of God and Faith in Christ

=

The Fruit of Spirit:



- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Patience
- Kindness
- Faithfulness
- Gentleness
- Self-Control
- Goodness

The Fruit of Spirit:



- Respects the human dignity of all persons
- Works to strengthen people's faith and teach the way of Jesus Christ
- Lives in peace, helps the timid, the weak and the vulnerable
- Is forbearing, encouraging and patient
- Upholds justice while embracing forgiveness.
- Abstains from acts of revenge
- Lives with a joyful and grateful heart



© God remind us we are not alone.



Communion

Holy Communion



God asks that we love him, confess our sins, and grow close to him in faith.

In this holy space, let us prepare our hearts and minds to receive his holy sacrament.

Prayer of Confession & Declaration of Forgiveness

Our heavenly Father, You know how often we stumble.

We don't come to this table trusting in ourselves;

but instead, trusting in You and Your unfailing mercy.

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners, which proves

His love and grace. We are a forgiven people. **Amen**

The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you;

Congregation: and also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

Congregation: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: It is a good and joyful thing to always give thanks to you.
Even when we turned away and our love failed, your love
remained steadfast. And so we praise Your Holy name.



Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,

God of power and might,
God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory
Heaven and earth are full of your glory

Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name
of the Lord.

*Blessed is the one who comes
in the name of the Lord.*

Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna in the highest.



On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took the bread,
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me."



When the supper was over, he took the cup,
he gave thanks to You, gave it to his disciples,
and said, *"Drink from this all of you. This is
my blood of the new covenant poured out for
you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as
often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."*

... And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.





Leader: Christ has died, Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.

**Christ has died, Christ is risen,
Christ will come again**

Leader: Christ has died, Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.

**Christ has died, Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**



Photo by James Gardner

All honor and glory is yours,
almighty God, now and forever.

Amen, amen, amen.

Amen, amen, amen.



Blessing of the Elements

Loving and eternal God, pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to the entire world, until Christ comes in final victory. **Amen**

Breaking of the Bread



Lifting of the Cup



Just as there is one loaf, we who are many are one body.
Just as we all partake of one loaf, the bread which we share
is also a sharing in the body of Christ.

The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing of the Blood of Christ.

Partaking of the Elements





Offering and Doxology

UM Hymnal 95



We give thanks for this wonderful,
generous community of faith.

Benediction



Art by Sue Carroll