

York Chapel  
Duke Divinity School  
Wednesday, January 16, 2002

A Love Feast

Greeting

\*Opening Hymn

UMH #647 *Your love, O God, has called us here* (tune of Duke Street)

\*Charles Wesley's prayer for the Love Feast

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 race  
In Jesus Christ to prove  
The sweetness of thy pardoning grace,  
The manna of they love

Scripture

Exodus 16:11-15

Witness

"What is this"

Deacon Andrew Keck

Distribution of the bread

Singing of Grace

UMH #621 *Be Present at our Table Lord*

Eating together (in silence)

Circulation of the cup

Hymn

*With Hearts in Tune, with One Accord*<sup>2</sup> (tune of St Catherine)  
With hearts in tune, with one accord,  
we gather here to praise the Lord.  
A simple meal, a quiet time  
to celebrate a love divine;  
and as the ancient Christians fed,  
we, too, now share this love-feast bread.

As we partake, we praise the name;  
the host of heaven does proclaim

that Christ is king, the risen Lord,  
our church's Head by all adored.  
And so as brothers, sisters all,  
we gladly heed our Savior's call.

Prayers of the People

\*Hymn

UMH #561 *Jesus, united by thy grace* (1<sup>st</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> verses)

\*Dismissal with Blessing

\*All who are able, please stand.

*Today's Servers and Leaders*

William Pike	Britt Fisher
Dan Gray	Joyce Horn
Brenda Jones	Andrew Keck
Jamalyn Peigh	Cheryl Skinner

*About the Love Feast*

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

The modern history of the Love Feast began when Count Zinzendorf and the Moravians in Germany introduced a service of sharing food, prayer, religious conversation, and hymns in 1727. John Wesley first experienced it among the Moravians in Savannah, Georgia, ten years later. It quickly became a feature of the Evangelical Revival and a regular part of Methodist society meetings in Great Britain and throughout the English-speaking world. As Methodists immigrated to North America they made Love Feasts an important part of early American Methodism. While Love Feasts became less frequent in the years that followed, they continued to be held in some places and have recently experienced a revival in the United Methodist Church.

A current-day Love Feast most often consists of praise, prayer, Scripture, testimony, and the sharing of food. It is customary not to use communion bread, wine, or grape juice because to do so might confuse the Love Feast with the Lord's Supper. Today we will be serving sweet Moravian buns, baked especially for this service, and hot spiced cider. We invite you to enter into a spirit of koinonia with one another, praising God and sharing a simple meal as a means of expressing the community of Christ present at Duke Divinity School as we begin a new semester.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Cover image from *The love feast* by Frank Ramirez (©1990 Brethren Press)

<sup>2</sup> Text by Lynn W. Hall from *Moravian Book of Worship* (©1990 Moravian Church of America)

<sup>3</sup> Adapted from "The Love Feast" *United Methodist Book of Worship* (©1992 UMPH)



Women of the ancient church served as deaconesses and took an active role in feasts. This ancient fresco depicts two women. Irene is asked to pass the hot food and Agape is asked to mix the wine and water. Graydon Snyder Collection.