

# Feast of the Sacred Heart 2015



Song: Choose a song that is appropriate

**Leader:** Set me like a seal on your heart,  
like a seal on your arm.  
For love is strong as death,  
the flash of it is a flash of fire,  
a flame of Yahweh.

Song of Songs 8:6

**Reader:** *A disciple asks the rabbi: "Why does Torah tell us to 'place these words upon your hearts'? Why does it not tell us to place these holy words in our hearts?" The rabbi answers: "It is because as we are, our hearts are closed, and we cannot place the holy words in our hearts. So we place them on top of our hearts. And there they stay until, one day, the heart breaks and the words fall in." —Hasidic tale*

**Reader:** I Corinthians 12:2-7

If I speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy but do not love, I am nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate. If I speak God's Word with power, revealing all his mysteries and making everything plain as day, and if I have faith that says to a mountain, "Jump," and it jumps, but I do not love, I am nothing. If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I do not love, I have gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe and what I do, I am bankrupt without love.

Love is patient, love is kind.  
It is not jealous, love is not pompous,  
it is not inflated, it is not rude,  
it does not seek its own interests,  
it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury,  
it does not rejoice over wrongdoing  
but rejoices with the truth.  
It bears all things, believes all things,  
hopes all things, endures all things.

The Word of God

Sing refrain of the opening song



**Leader:** Contemplative Sit

As we celebrate the Feast of the Sacred Heart, a fest of love, we are very conscious that our world is suffering. As Jews, Christians and Muslims we are painfully divided, even though we share a spiritual descent. In addition, our divisions are at the centre of much of the world's most serious places of conflict and war today. Let us sit in silence, in the presence of Love, and allow the rich perspectives of our distinct traditions heal the world and our hearts.

**Reader:** *(Allow 3-5 minutes of silence after each reading.)*

A reading from the Hebrew Scriptures- Ps 20.

**May God grant you your heart's desire.**

Silence

A reading from the Christian Scriptures – Mark 12.30

**Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."**

Silence

A reading from the Qur'an- the Cow 2.115

**Whichever way you turn there is the face of God.**

Silence

**Leader:** We come from the One even though we refer to the Living Presence by different names. We are made of the One. Deep within us, therefore, is the sacred desire for oneness; the sacred desire to be of one heart.

**Reader:** Cantic of Corinthians (13: 1-9, 13)

If I have all the eloquence of humans or of angels, but speak without love, I am simply a gong booming or a cymbal clashing.

**All: Every heart that loves is sacred.**

If I have the gift of prophecy, understanding all the mysteries, there are, and if I have faith in all its fullness to move mountains, but without love, then I am nothing at all.

**All: Every heart that loves is sacred.**

If I give away all that I possess, piece by piece and if I even let them take my body to burn, but am without love, it will do me no good whatever.

**All: Every heart that loves is sacred.**

Love is always patient and kind; it is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offense and is not resentful.

**All: Every heart that loves is sacred.**



Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins but delights in the truth; it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope, to endure whatever comes.

**All: Every heart that loves is sacred.**

Love does not end. The gift of prophecy will fail, the gift of languages will not continue forever and the time will come when knowledge too must fail.

**All: Every heart that loves is sacred.**

There are three things that last: faith, hope and love, and the greatest of these is love.

**All: Every heart that loves is sacred.**

Silence

**Reader:**

A lady of society was gazing upon an image she had never seen before in the city's art museum. "My dear fellow," she said condescendingly to the Curator, "I have never seen this painting before. I find the image shallow and rather crude in appearance. What do you call this?" The curator answered without giving the slightest expression, "That madam, is a mirror." The lady's vision was not very focused.

Love is the lens that focuses our lives. Love should penetrate every relationship we have, not just romantic and family relationships. Love is not just a word we say, but an attitude that we have towards others. Love is not dependent on others; rather it is a personal choice. You cannot make someone else have these qualities of love, but you can make a personal choice in your attitude toward them. It is not just a feeling; it is a matter of our wills. We CHOOSE to love: we DECIDE to focus our vision on others.

Jesus said in John 13:35 "If you love one another, everyone will know you are my disciples." Making the choice to love others is not only a suggestion given in 1 Corinthians 13, it is also a command given by our Lord to those who would call themselves Christians.

**All: Closing Prayer**

God of the cosmos,  
we know we were born in the fire of your love  
and we wander back to the fire of your Sacred Heart.  
Free us and mold us in the crucible of your plan.  
Consume us in our charism's fire  
that we will be one with you.  
We ask this in your name, beloved Sacred Heart. Amen.

A closing song may be sung.

*May the fire of your  
Sacred Heart make us one.*

