



**African Methodist Episcopal Church
Fifth Episcopal District
Midwest Annual Conference
Women's Missionary Society**

February Meditation

LOVE

“I have loved you deeply says the Lord.” Malachi 1:2 NLT

“So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other.” John 13:34 NLT

PRAYER: Loving Father God, maker of heaven and earth. I thank You for a love that is beyond encompassing and an intelligence beyond comprehending. Thank You, Loving Father for helping me to grow from my experiences in this imperfect world. When I encounter good and evil, pleasure and pain, beauty and ugliness, love and selfishness and life and death, You see me through it and help me to grow, and I thank You. Forgive me when I have not loved others the way that You commanded me to love. I pray this prayer in the Name of Jesus Christ. Amen

Thought: As I become more loving, the world will have less hate in it.

MEDITATION: One good definition of love is that it is the feeling that excites desire for the welfare of its object. If all people would recognize love as embodying this ideal – recognize that God love all human to the degree that He has poured out His life and substance and intelligence equally with us in the universal scheme – they would find in it the solution to every problem of life. Our greatest good comes in the welfare of all. Jesus recognized divine Sonship and universal sister and brotherhood. We confess Jesus as the Son of God and by that confession we acknowledge that we all are children of God. All of us want to know Truth and the help that comes from it, but when it is presented to us we object to the broad spirit that it proclaims. Many of wonder why we do not develop divine love more quickly. One reason is: We make a wall of separation between the religious and secular, between the good and bad. Divine love sees no distinction among persons. It is principle and it feels its own perfection everywhere. It feels the same in the heart of the sinner as it does in the heart of the saint. When we let the Truth of God into our hearts and pull down all walls of separation we will feel the flow of infinite love that Jesus feels. John emphasizes this fact – that in order to love God we must necessarily love all of God's children. A love that is adulterated in any degree by hatred for anything or anybody is not pure enough to discern the great love of God, which unifies all humans. Jesus said that love of God is the greatest commandment. “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and prophets.” Matthew 22:37-40. Divine love is such a transcendent thing that words describing it seems flat and stale. But affirming that we do love God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our mind, and with all our might will cause us to feel a love we have never felt before. No better treatment for the realization of divine love can be given than that which Jesus recommended. When we faintly realize the love of God we begin to love everybody. Love is a divine ordinance and those who let the love of God pour itself out in

charity, do truly cover and forgive a “multitude of sins.” Not only in us but in others, love pours its balm over every wound and the substance of its sympathy infuses hope and faith to the discouraged heart. Divine Love has a balm for every ill.

AFFIRMATION:

ALWAYS LOVED

The mind of God toward you
There is never a time
When you are not in God’s thoughts,
Never a time without grace
Never a time when God turns away
from any need you face.

There is never a time
When you are not in God’s heart,
Never a time without love
Never a time when you are not blessed
with good things from above.

“How precious are Your thoughts about me, O God! They are innumerable! I can’t even count them; they outnumber the grains of sand! And when I wake up in the morning You are still with me!” Psalm 139:17-18

Excerpt from the Devotional `Always Loved` by Roy Lessin.

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