

Christmas Love feast

Love feasts originated in the first gathering of Christians after Pentecost. The early believers met and broke bread together, thereby signifying their union and equality. These meals of the church family were associated with the celebration of the Lord's Supper, which followed them. They were called agape, from the Greek word for love, which is the highest type of spiritual love. Gradually this meal lost its devotional character, and toward the end of the fourth century the Church gave it up.

In 1727, a small band of Moravians, assembled by German social reformer, Count Nicolas Zinzendorf, reintroduced it with Missionaries and immigrants and carried it to the states. The first love feast was served in Germany on August 13, 1727, following the renewal of the Moravian Church. The love feast is not to be confused with the sacrament of Holy Communion but is styled after the common meal partaken in love and fellowship by the early church as described in the book of Acts. Love feasts nourish the soul, give us pause, and inspire. They transport us to sacred realms and add beauty to our often-complicated lives.

On this night we will blend together both traditions as we share in a time of carols and scripture and then share fellowship around the table with a sweetened bun and creamed coffee (and Moravian cookies).

Scripture Readers

Marlee Fleeman
Emma Grace Burns
Maddie Boris
Natalie Olp
Michael Boris

Music

Roy Hicks

Table Setup/Food Preparation

Harold & Ann Burns/David & Jackie Stiffel/Karen Huckaby

Christmas Love Feast



Wednesday evening
December 14, 2022
6:30 p.m.

Churchland Baptist Church
Lexington, North Carolina

Christmas Love Feast

Wednesday, December 14, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.

Welcome/Opening Prayer – Dr. John Huckaby

The Christmas Story with Carols

The Prophecy - Isaiah 9:6 & Micah 5:2

Marlee Fleeman

Christmas Carol – *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

(1) O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by; yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light. The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

(2) O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray,
cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

The Angels Visit Mary and Joseph - Matthew 1:26-38

Emma Grace Burns

Christmas Carol – *Angels From the Realms of Glory*

Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth: Come
and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

The Birth of Jesus - Luke 2:1-7

Maddie Boris

Christmas Carol – *Away in a Manger*

(1) Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid
down his sweet head. The stars in the bright sky looked
down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

(2) The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord
Jesus no crying he makes. I love you, Lord Jesus; look down
from the sky and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

(3) Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay close by me forever
and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in your tender
care, and take us to heaven to live with you there.

The Shepherd's Visit – Luke 2:8-20

Natalie Olp

Christmas Carol – *The First Noel*

(1) The First Noel the Angels did say Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they
lay In fields where they lay keeping their sheep On a cold winter's night that
was so deep Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel!

(2) They looked up and saw a star Shining in the East beyond them far
And to the earth it gave great light And so it continued both day and night
Noel Noel Noel Noel Born is the King of Israel!

The Wisemen Visit - Matthew 2:1-12

Michael Boris

Christmas Carol – *We Three Kings of Orient Are*

(1) We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar, field and fountain,
moor, and mountain, following yonder star. O star of wonder, star of light, star
with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy
perfect light.

(2) Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again, King forever,
ceasing never, over us all to reign. O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal
beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

(3) Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a Deity nigh; prayer and praising,
voices raising, worshipping God on high. O star of wonder, star of light, star with
royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect
light.

(4) Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom; sorrowing,
sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. O star of wonder, star of
light, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us
to thy perfect light.

Fellowship at the Table

Sweet Buns/Creamed Coffee/Moravian Cookies

Closing Song – Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing

Benediction – Dr. John Huckaby

