

ROOTED IN LOVE

Ephesians 3:14-21 // A Service for Valentine's Day

This worship service centers on Paul's prayer for the Ephesians, that they would be rooted in love. Here are some materials to get you started creating your own worship service.

MAIN THEME: *What are you rooted in? Encourage worshipers to make Paul's prayer their own.*

CHOOSING MUSIC // FOR SINGING

- 🎵 **Hold Us Together** [Key of C]
Text and Music: Matt Maher and Steve Wilson
© Meaux Mercy (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

- 🎵 **Jesus Lord of Heaven** [Key of C]
Text and Music: Phil Wickham
© 2005 Thirsty Moon Publishing (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

- 🎵 **By Our Love** [Key of G]
Text and Music: Christy Nockels
© 2009 sixstepz Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

- 🎵 **O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus** [Key of Em]
Text and Music: S. T. Francis and T. J. Williams
Public Domain

- 🎵 **The Love of God** [Key of D]
Text and Music: F. M. Lehman and Meir Ben Isaac Nehorai
Public Domain

- 🎵 **Love Divine, All Loves Excelling** [Key of F]
Text and Music: Charles Wesley and R. H. Prichard
Public Domain

CREATING DRAMA // FOR HEARING

Purchase and use "A Prayer for the Church" // Worship House Media [www.worshiphousemedia.com]

FINDING ART // FOR SEEING

Put together a short video or picture slideshow that recaps instances of how your community is "rooted in love." Consider moments of community service, mission trips, worship service, small group ministry, or other activities. Use Animoto [<https://animoto.com>] for help.

Ask a worshiper to create a painting or take a photo that creatively reflects the scripture passage.

To build off the “roots” theme, consider images of strong trees with deep roots. The roots should be many, symbolizing the ministries of love-building in your community.

Photographer Barry T. Baylor has shot one such image, “Rooted in Love II



LIVING WORSHIP // FOR DOING

Purchase and use the inspirational video from Worship House Media [www.worshiphousemedia.com] featuring David Bowden poetry, “**A Valentine’s Day Poem.**”

After the message or after the worship gathering have a small group discussion time, facilitated by older worshippers. Valentine’s Day offers a great opportunity for us to reflect on God’s love for us and how we are to share that love with others. Encourage your group to consider people who may be forgotten in your community. For instance, local nursing homes, children’s homes, soup kitchens, and even church members who are homebound all need to be remembered during this holiday. Take time to pray for them and brainstorm ideas for expressing love to them. When we share love with others, our community is further rooted in the love of God. You might include these questions for discussion:

- *Who in our community might our regular ministries be forgetting?*
- *What are the needs of the people you should remember in your community?*
- *How can you share God’s love by meeting their needs?*

- *How can you pray for them?*
- *How does ministering to others further root us as a community of love?*

MAKING SPACE // FOR WORSHIPPING

Consider commissioning an artist to build a candelabra that is sculpted to look like a tree with a root-like base. Branches can hold candles, to be lit at the beginning of the worship gathering. This could even become a staple in your worship space.

Fill the space with items that possess imagery of planting deep roots. Structures that incorporate characteristics of trees—roots, trunk, bark, branches, leaves—all remind worshippers of Paul’s prayer to be “rooted and grounded in love” and ask worshippers to ask: What am I rooted in?

WRITING POETRY// FOR PRAYING

Write your own prayer and offer it on behalf of the community. See this prayer for inspiration, based on Ephesians 3:16-19:

*We bow our hearts before You, Father God.
You are the Creator of everything we see
in heaven and on earth.
We pray that out of your glorious, unlimited resources,
You would strengthen our hearts and minds
through the power of Your Holy Spirit.
May your love be the rich soil in which our lives are rooted.
May your love be the firm foundation on which we build,
so that, together with all Your people everywhere,
we would come to truly understand how long, how high,
how wide and how deep Your love really is—
how it far surpasses anything we can imagine.
God, fill us with the fullness and the power
that comes from You alone,
so that our lives would reflect your goodness and grace
to the world around us. Amen.*

SAMPLE WORSHIP SERVICE

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GREETING

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

Leader: God is love, and those who live in love live in God and God lives in them.

[Light candles of commissioned candelabra, sculpted to look like a tree with roots, to remind worshipers that we are rooted in God, who is present with us.]

SONG OF INVOCATION

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

WELCOME

Say hi to other worshipers and welcome one another in the name of Christ.

SONGS OF CHRIST'S LOVE & GRACE

*O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus
Jesus Lord of Heaven*

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 145:1-8

SHARING OUR STORIES

By Our Love

A week before worship, invite one or two worshipers to prepare brief testimonies answering this question: "How is our faith community rooted in love?" Sing the chorus of this song between each person's reflection.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Ask God to help us be serious about love. Confess times when we are not loving, when we do not realize ways we can be deeply rooted in love in our daily living. Just as Paul prayed for the Ephesians, pray that God would show our faith

community how to make the way of Jesus our own way, that we may have "strong roots in love" and "be filled entirely with the fullness of God"—who is love.

SCRIPTURE READING

Ephesians 3:14-21

Paul's Prayer for the Ephesians

Purchase and use this video from The Work of the People as the scripture reading: "A Prayer for the Church."

MESSAGE

Rooted in Love

VISUAL MEDITATION

Purchase and use this video from Worship House Media featuring David Bowden's poetry: "A Valentine's Day Poem."

CLOSING SONG

Hold Us Together

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

[based on Ephesians 3:16-19, The Message]

Leader: I ask God to strengthen you by his Spirit—not a brute strength but a glorious inner strength—that Christ will live in you as you open the door and invite him in. And I ask him that with both feet rooted firmly in love, you'll be able to take in with all Christians the extravagant dimensions of Christ's love. Reach out and experience the breadth! Test its length! Plumb the depths! Rise to the heights! Live full lives, full in the fullness of God.

All: **Amen!**