



**CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**6300 Trinity Drive, Pine Bluff, Arkansas**  
**Agape (Moravian Love) Feast**  
**December 10th, 2023**



# *Moravian Love Feast*

*agape*

---

*“Agape” is one of several Greek words for love. When the word “agape” is used in the Bible, it refers to a pure, willful, sacrificial love that intentionally desires another’s highest good.*

---

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Let us pray.

Be present at our table, Lord.

Be here and everywhere adored.

Thy creatures bless and grant that we

May feast in paradise with Thee.

**All: Amen.**

One: To gather joyfully is an intentional celebration, for feasting and all enjoyments gratefully taken are, at their heart, acts of resistance.

**All: In celebrating this feast, we bear witness that evil and death, suffering and loss, sorrow, and tears, will not have the final word.**

One: But the joy of fellowship, and the welcome and comfort of friends and family, and the celebration of these blessings of food and drink and conversation and laughter are the true evidence of things eternal, and are the first fruits of that great joy that is to come and that will be unending.

One: So let our feast this day be joined to those sure victories secured by Christ.

**All: Let it be to us now a delight, and a glad foretaste of God's eternal kingdom. Bless us, O Lord, in this feast.**

One: Bless us, O Lord, as we linger over our cups, and over this table laden with good things that come from you. Might we savor the delights of varied textures and flavor, which have been prepared as acts of love and blessing; and might our conversation quench the thirst of our hearts and our souls.

**A Liturgy for the Love Feast**

One: May this shared feast, and our pleasure in it,  
bear witness against the world's artifice and deceptions  
that would blind us to hope.

**All: May it overcome our fears and distance, restoring us to one another  
and to you, O God.**

One: May this our feast shatter our gloom reawaken our hearts, stir our  
imaginings, focus our vision on the kingdom of heaven that is to come  
and is already among us.

**All: For the resurrection of all good things has already joyfully begun.**

**(All are invited to raise their glasses or cups of water)**

One: May this feast be an echo of that great Supper of the Lamb, a  
foreshadowing of the great celebration that awaits the children of God.  
Where two or more of us are gathered, O Lord, there you have promised  
to be

**All: And here we are.**

One: And so, here are you.

One: Take joy, O Lord.

**All: Take joy, O Lord, in this our love feast.**

One: Now you who are loved by the Creator, prepare your hearts and give yourself wholly to this celebration of joy, to the glad company of saints, to the comforting fellowship of the Spirit, and to the abiding presence of Christ who is seated among us both as our host and as our honored guest, and still yet as our friend.

**All: Amen.**

**(All are invited to drink water from their glasses or cups and set them on the table.)**

### **The Breaking of Bread**

One: Let us pray. Lord we give you thanks for this feast, of food and fellowship. We give you thanks that we are able to gather around this table, your table.

**(Additional prayers may be spoken by those around the table.)**

And now, let us pray at your table the prayer that you taught us, praying:

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**