

To Love One Another is to Give Our Life (John 15:12-17)

(Adapted from *Drawn into the Mystery of Jesus through the Gospel of John*, Jean Vanier, Novalis 2004, pp. 274-276)

22 voices, begin with the president and continue around to her left

- Hymn:** “Lord, You Give the Great Commission” (CBW III #691, verses 1-3)
- Voice 1:** Abiding in Jesus and bearing abundant fruit implies that we love with the love of Jesus all those who are given to us: “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”
- Voice 2:** And Jesus adds: “*There is no greater love than this – to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.*”
- Voice 3:** To love people as Jesus loves them is to wash their feet, to serve them in humility; it is to help them rise up in truth and love.
- Voice 4:** Here Jesus is revealing something more: to love is to lay down one’s life for others, to place their interests before our own.
- Voice 5:** It is to give them life. That can mean accepting difficulties, danger and even death so that they may live and grow in love.
- Voice 6:** To love is to live in communion with others, to transmit to them the life and love of Jesus.
- Voice 7:** It is to reveal to them that they are loved, loved by Jesus.
- Voice 8:** In this way we become their friend because we are a friend of Jesus. “*You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you my friends because I have made known to you everything I have heard from my Father.*”
- Voice 9:** In this friendship nothing is hidden or secret. Jesus has shared everything He has heard from the Father, all is given.
- Voice 10:** And Jesus recalls: “You did not choose me, but I chose you and I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. This I command you, to love one another.”
- Voice 11:** The barriers that separated the finite from the infinite, the temporal from the eternal, the human from the divine, have disappeared.
- Voice 12:** At times it is necessary for us to live an austere life, like John the Baptizer, and to seek a certain separation from our bodies, to strain to reach God through our efforts.
- Voice 13:** But God has appeared in the flesh, has become vulnerable in the flesh. He has come to offer us his friendship, to invite us to become His beloved.

- Voice 14:** He has become little and vulnerable, to live a communion of hearts with us and to join Him in giving life to others.
- Voice 15:** It is not a question, then, of striving toward God but of humbly opening the door of our hearts to God, who is knocking there.
- Voice 16:** This friendship with Jesus is something deep but simple, like other friendships.
- Voice 17:** It is not a big, mystical experience or impressive apparition; it involves living day by day with Jesus, walking with Him, listening to Him, following His desires, and being nourished by His words and by His body.
- Voice 18:** Jesus is in us and we are in Jesus.
- Voice 19:** As we talk, meet and share with others, as we accomplish work and try to live out projects, as we live with others in family, in community or as friends and companions,
- Voice 20:** As we do little gestures of love, kindness, affection and forgiveness, especially to those who are weak or in need, we are with Jesus and reveal Jesus to others.
- Voice 21:** In the words of Cardinal Newman,
- All:** Shine through me, Jesus, and be so in me that every soul I come in contact with may feel Your presence in my soul. Let them look up and see no longer me, but only Jesus!
- Voice 22:** Our Lady of Good Counsel
- All:** Pray for us!
- Hymn:** “Lord, You Give the Great Commission” (CBW III #691, verses 4 and 5)