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This morning's service was planned and delivered by the following congregational members:
Chuck Killion, Holly Hansen, Ivan Williams, Jackie Stone, Wendy Soto
Special Guest:
Jason Marsden, Director of the Matthew Shepard Foundation

You Tube: Conspirare performs Considering Matthew Shepard: Cattle, Horses, Sky and Grass"

Welcome and Announcements

Introit - "They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love" – by Kurt Borgaard

THE NATURE OF THE CHURCH

**2223 They'll Know We Are Christians
by Our Love**



1. We are one in the Spir-it, we are one in the Lord,
2. We will walk with each oth-er, we will walk hand in hand,
3. We will work with each oth-er, we will work side by side,
4. All praise to the Fa-ther, from whom all things come,



we are one in the Spir-it, we are one in the Lord,
we will walk with each oth-er, we will walk hand in hand,
we will work with each oth-er, we will work side by side,
and all praise to Christ Je-sus, God's on-ly Son,



and we pray that all u-ni-ty may one day be re-stored:
and to-geth-er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
and we'll guard hu-man dig-ni-ty and save hu-man pride:
and all praise to the Spir-it, who makes us one:

Refrain



And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our



love; yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love. _____

WORDS: Peter Scholtes (John 13:34-35; Eph. 4:4-6)

MUSIC: Peter Scholtes

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ST. BRENDAN'S
76.76.86 with Refrain

In memory of Matthew Shepard, I want to share with you Matt's story from 1998 and Ivan's and my story 15 years later in 2013.

**You Tube: Conspirare sings "Ordinary Boy" from Considering Matthew Shepard
Artist: Craig Hella Johnson - Conspirare**

One of the last things Matthew Shepard did on Tuesday night, October 6th, 1998, was to attend a meeting of the University of Wyoming's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Association.

On Wednesday, October 7th, then-21-year-old Matthew Shepard was brutally attacked by two men, tied to a fence in a field outside Laramie, Wyoming and left to die.

The next morning, Matthew was found by a cyclist, a fellow student. Sherriff's Deputy , Reggie Fluty, the first to report to the scene, told Judy Shepard, Matthew's mom, that as she ran to the fence she saw a large doe lying near Matt – as if the deer had been keeping him company all through the night.

His attackers targeted him for being gay. On October 12th, he succumbed to his injuries in Fort Collins, CO.

This horrific chain of events became one of the most notorious anti-gay hate Crimes in American History and spawned a new generation of LGBTQ civil rights activists. All of us who knew him, and millions who did not, joined in grief and outrage and demanded the world to change.

In a first step, his parents formed the Matthew Sheppard Foundation, to spare other families from similar tragedies.

In 2013, Ivan and I were approached by Jeran Artery, Chairman of Wyoming Equality and Wendy Soto to join three other couples to join the other plaintiffs in a suit in the State of Wyoming for Marriage Equality. On October 21, 2014, same-sex marriage was legally recognized in the U.S. State of Wyoming. This is date is especially important to us as it falls on our granddaughter's Lilly's birthday!

On February 5, 2015, we were married by our pastor Rodger McDaniel here at United Highlands Presbyterian Church and witnessed by over 100 of our friends and fellow parishoners.

The Word of God – by Holly Hansen
1st Reading

1 Corinthians 13

New International Version

13 If I speak in the tongues^[a] of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast,^[b] but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

⁸ Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. ¹¹ When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. ¹² For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

¹³ And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. **But the greatest of these is love.**

2nd Reading

Psalm 23

A psalm of David.

1 The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,

3 he refreshes my soul.

He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake.

4 Even though I walk
through the darkest valley, ^a

I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

5 You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

6 Surely your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD
forever.

Message – by

Living In Today's World for the LGTBQ Community

Contemplative Music – by Kurt Borggaard
The Beatles - All You Need Is Love

Lyrics

Love, love, love
There's nothing you can do that can't be done
Nothing you can sing that can't be sung
Nothing you can say, but you can learn how to play the game
It's easy
Nothing you can make that can't be made
No one you can save that can't be saved
Nothing you can do, but you can learn how to be you in time
It's easy
All you need is love
All you need is love, love
Love is all you need
All you need is love
All you need is love, love
Love is all you need
There's nothing you can know that isn't known
Nothing you can see that isn't shown
There's nowhere you can be that isn't where you're meant to be

Prayers of the People – By Jackie Stone

Preparing for Communion

Let's remember this from **John 13:34-35**:

34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. **35** By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

One day as Jesus finished praying, a disciple asked, "Rabbi, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples." Jesus said to them, "When you pray, say..."

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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.

Offertory Prayer

The “offering plate” will now be “passed” by email. You may use the online giving option by clicking on “Your Donation Page” or mail donations to Highlands Presbyterian Church, 2390 Pattison Avenue, Cheyenne, WY 82009

Benediction

You Tube: Conspirare Choir Mix - All of Us Vitual Choir



***You might ask what you can do to help:
Contributions are always welcomed to the following organizations:***



***Unaccompanied Student Initiative
PO Box 22103
Cheyenne, WY 82003-2103***



***More Light Presbyterians
PMB 246, 4737 County Road 101
Minnetonka, MN 55345-2634***



***Wyoming Equality
PO Box 2531
Cheyenne, WY 82003-2531
307.778.7645***



***Matthew Shepard Foundation
800 18th St #301
Denver, CO 80202
303-830-7400***