

**ELIM COVENANT CHURCH**  
**DECEMBER 20, 2015**





# **MESSAGE**

**“The Substance of Love”**

**Pastor Steve Peterson**

**CHOIR PROCESSIONAL** *“Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come”*  
(Congregation please join in singing – Blue Hymnal #146)

**ELIM CHOIR**                      **Christmas Cantata**                      **God Is With Us**

## **RESPONDING TO GOD**

Now that God has spoken to us, it is time for us to speak to Him!

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**OFFERTORY**

**OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD**

## **BEING SENT BY GOD**

God sends us out into the world that he desperately loves.  
His presence goes with us.

We leave as God’s agents of grace and mercy.

**HYMN # 157**

*“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”*

**BENEDICTION**

### ***Scripture Readings for the Week***

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>2 Corinthians 3:5</i>
<i>Monday</i>	<i>Hebrews 8:6</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Matthew 28:19</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>John 1:43</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Luke 9:23</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>Galatians 6:14</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>John 10:27</i>

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**TODAY’S GREETERS**

Karen Johnson & Gary Wells

**HEAD USHER**

Gary Wells

**USHERS**

Felipe Cantu, Tom Dang & Sandy Parrott

**SOUND SYSTEM**

Don Yoeckel

# The Substance of Love”

## 1 John 4:7-16

**Key Text:** *“This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him”* (1 Jn. 4:9)

**Key Thought:** If we trust and obey God, His Spirit will dwell in us, and His amazing love will work in us and through us.

- 1) Intro & Context
- 2) The Substance of love
  - a. God is love (1 Jn. 4:8,16)
  - b. God in us (thus, love in us) (Gal. 5:22; 1 Jn. 4:12-13,16b)  
*“God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us”* (Rom. 5:5)
- 3) We’re called to love God & love others (Mk. 12:28-31; 1 Jn. 4:7-8)  
*“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”* (Mk. 12:30-31)
- 4) We’re called to know God & obey His Word (Deut. 11:1; Jn. 14:15,21; 1 Jn. 2:3-6; 5:3) *“Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me”* (Jn. 14:21)
- 5) Manifestations of love (1 Cor. 13:4-8)

Patience	Kindness	Doesn’t envy	Doesn’t boast
Is not proud	Is not rude	Is not self-seeking	Not easily angered
Keeps no record of wrongs	Does not delight in evil	Rejoices in the truth	Always protects
Always trusts	Always hopes	Always perseveres	Never fails

- 6) Ultimate love’s ultimate demonstration (Jn. 3:16; Rom. 5:8) *“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters”* (1 Jn. 3:16)

Closing

## PRAISES and PRAYER CONCERNS

**Praises: Thank you to the Elim choir and director Linda Gilmour!**

**Prayer Concerns:**

**Holiday stress & feeling overwhelmed/depressed.  
Our shut-ins.**

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**Those in Need of God's Strength and Healing:**

Juna Wertz, Arlene Miller, Adolph Laurick, June Riley, Margaret Hasty, Anna Swanson, Vivian Smith, Marj Nelson, Gene & Ellie Wildermuth, Mindy Allison, Jay & Judie Stanley, John & Linda Hutchison, Lyle & Maurine Beresford, Ann Seyller, Joy Wright, Pennie Knary, families that have lost loved ones, military families, and unspoken concerns.

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**Prayer Following Worship**

**Please feel free to take your burden or praise to one of the Elim Prayer Team members available to pray with you. Team members include: Julie, Linda, Carolyn, Juanita, & Tasha and can be easily found at the back of the sanctuary in the northeast classroom.**

**Monday Evening Prayer Gathering**

**Each Monday evening at 5:30 p.m. there is a prayer gathering held at Elim. You are encouraged to come and pray with the team members and share your requests/praises.**

**Prayer Chain**

**The prayer network is used when special needs arise during the week.**

**Call Judy at the church 764-6920 Monday thru Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. otherwise call or text Tasha Munger @ (309) 281-8784 with your request. If no answer, you may leave your concern on the answer machine and it will be relayed ASAP.**

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## **Pizza, PJ's and Play!**

*Bring the family for games, a movie, and some food,  
and if you want, get comfy and wear your PJ's!*

**Wednesday, December 30th**

**5:30-7:30 - FREE!**

*Please note this is a "family" event, adults must accompany children*





## *Thank You*

*Dear Elim Family,*

*Thank you so much for your loving concern and caring for Christy. She has been the light of our lives for 47 years and we know she will be missed by you also. It was a wonderful funeral celebration.*

*Thank you for all you did, for the lunch, the many flowers, memorials and cards.*

*We truly appreciate it all.*

*Love, Dewey and Carol*

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**A.M. Prayer & Coffee Gatherings (coffee is optional)! Every Wednesday morning during the holiday season, we're going to have a morning prayer gathering from 7:00- 7:45 a.m. It's a great opportunity for those who**

- **Want to counter-act the holiday stress with prayer.**
    - **Want to draw closer to Christ.**
  - **Feel a call to join with others in intercessory prayer. For those who are able, we'll finish with conversation over coffee at the Village Inn.**
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**The children's Christmas Program will be today,  
Sunday, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> @ 4:00 p.m.**

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## ***LOOKING AHEAD***

Sun.	Dec. 20	9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Celebration – Christmas Cantata 11:45 a.m. Collect for CF/Youth Hope following worship 4:00 p.m. Children’s Christmas Program
Mon.	Dec. 21	5:30 p.m. Prayer Team Gathering
Tues.	Dec. 22	<u>NO</u> Choir Practice
Wed.	Dec. 23	<u>NO</u> Wednesday Night Activities
Thurs.	Dec. 24	4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
Fri.	Dec. 25	Christmas Day – Office Closed
Sun.	Dec. 27	9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Celebration Service
Mon.	Dec. 28	5:30 p.m. Prayer Team Gathering
Tues.	Dec. 29	<u>NO</u> Choir Practice
Wed.	Dec. 30	5:30-7:30 p.m. Youth Family Pizza, PJ’S and Play Night
Thurs.	Dec. 31	<u>NO</u> New Year’s Eve Afternoon Party Canceled
Fri.	Jan. 1	10:00a.m. CIU – Set up for Martha Peterson’s Wedding
Sat.	Jan. 2	10:00a-7:00p. CIU – Peterson/Collins Wedding
Sun.	Jan. 3	9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Celebration Service
Mon.	Jan. 4	5:30 p.m. Prayer Team Gathering
Tue.	Jan. 5	6:30 p.m. Choir Practice
Wed.	Jan. 6	5:30 p.m. Dollar Dinner 5:30 p.m. Women’s Bible Study 6:00-7:30 p.m. SPARK & AXIS 7:30-9:00 p.m. Fusion
Thurs.	Jan. 7	9:00 a.m. Keenagers Coffee Time/Bible Study
Sun.	Jan. 10	9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Celebration Service
Mon.	Jan. 11	5:30 p.m. Prayer Team Gathering
Tues.	Jan. 12	5:30 p.m. MLT Meeting 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

*December Birthdays*

- 20 – John Wulff
  - 22 – John Thompson
  - 27 – Dave Parrott
  - 30 – Belva Van Norman
  - 31 – Kristen Burns
- January Birthdays*
- 7 – Victoria Fowler
  - 9 – Sandy Parrott
  - 10 – Anna Christy
  - 15 – Rebecca Christy
  - 16 – Natalie Hermann

*January Anniversaries*

- 28 – Donald & Kathy Boggs

CIU – means Church In Use

Church office [office@elimqc.org](mailto:office@elimqc.org)  
(309) 764-6920

**Church website** [elimqc.org](http://elimqc.org)

Pastor’s e-mail [pastor@elimqc.org](mailto:pastor@elimqc.org)

Greg’s e-mail [youth@elimqc.org](mailto:youth@elimqc.org)

Attendance Last Week – Sunday School = 43

Worship = 134

**CHILD CARE** TODAY Dec. 20

**NEXT WEEK** Dec. 27

Nursery Diana W. (Amanda D. & Rachel L.)

Judy M. Meagan B. (Abby P.)

Jr. Church Rachel C. (Lori S. Mallory B.)

Rachel C. (Megan & Mariah DeA.)