

READING 1 Corinthians

read by PAM JENSEN

I Corinthians 13:1-8,13

¹ Now I will show you the way which surpasses all the others. If I speak with human tongues and angelic as well, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong, a clanging cymbal. ² If I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have faith great enough to move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give everything I have to feed the poor and hand over my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; ⁵ it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. ⁷ Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸ Love never fails. Prophecies will cease, tongues will be silent, knowledge will pass away...

¹³ There are in the end three things that last: faith, hope, and love, and the greatest of these is love.

MUSIC "Here, There and Everywhere"

sung by JONATHAN FLAK

To lead a better life
I need my love to be here

Here, making each day of the year
Changing my life with a wave of her hand
Nobody can deny that there's something there
There, running my hands through her hair
Both of us thinking how good it can be
Someone is speaking, but she doesn't know he's there

I want her everywhere
And if she's beside me I know I need never care
But to love her is to need her everywhere
Knowing that love is to share
Each one believing that love never dies
Watching their eyes and hoping I'm always there

READING "Touched by an Angel" by Maya Angelou

read by CRAIG NEAL

We, unaccustomed to courage
exiles from delight
live coiled in shells of loneliness
until love leaves its high holy temple
and comes into our sight
to liberate us into life.

Love arrives
and in its train come ecstasies
old memories of pleasure

ancient histories of pain.
Yet if we are bold,
love strikes away the chains of fear
from our souls.

We are weaned from our timidity
In the flush of love's light
we dare be brave
And suddenly we see
that love costs all we are
and will ever be.
Yet it is only love
which sets us free.

READING from True Love by Tich Nhat Hanh read by LINDA BERGH

Training is needed in order to love properly; and to be able to find happiness and joy, you must practice *deep looking* directed toward the person you love. Because if you do not understand this person, you cannot love properly. Understanding is the essence of love. If you cannot understand, you cannot love. That is the message of the Buddha. If a husband [or wife], for example, does not understand [their spouse's] deepest troubles, [their] deepest aspirations, if [they do] not understand [their spouse's] suffering, [they] will not be able to love [their spouse] in the right way. Without understanding, love is an impossible thing.

What must we do in order to understand a person? We must have time; we must practice looking deeply into this person. We must be there, attentive; we must observe, we must look deeply. And the fruit of this looking deeply is called understanding. Love is a true thing if it is made up of a substance called understanding.

PAUL AND MINDY SHARE VOWS

ANNE

Do you, Mindy and Paul, pledge to create a life of mutual respect, compassion, generosity, and patience toward each other as you grow together in years?

PAUL & MINDY

We do

ANNE

Do you pledge to recognize each other's individuality and celebrate each other's uniqueness as a strength in marriage? While at the same time, will you guard one another's weaknesses with understanding, support, and inspiration?

PAUL & MINDY

We do

ANNE

And do you pledge to share the love you have for each other with all living beings? To be a couple that lets their marriage radiate into others, making their lives more beautiful because of it?

PAUL & MINDY

We do

MINDY

I, Mindy, choose you Paul to be my spouse, to be no other than yourself and I offer myself in return with all my strengths and all my flaws.

I promise to learn with you, work with you, challenge you, nurture, grow and create with you. I will laugh with you, cry with you, explore and adventure with you through all our years and all that life may bring us.

PAUL

I, Paul, choose you, Mindy Ahler, as my spouse for the rest of my life and your life. I can't tell you what it's like being 71 and finally feeling ready to make this commitment. You have given me so much in my life - I can't begin to tell you all the things you have given me and I am honored to be your partner. I will celebrate with you every day, support you and be there whenever you need me - all the time - 24 7. Thank you for being in my life. I love you.