

## November 2011

### For God so loved...

*"This is why the Father loves me....." Jn 10:17*

**Leader:** We gather as people called to proclaim the good News of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**All:** Amen.

**Leader:** Give us strength, O Lord, to be Your witnesses.

**All:** Witness of faith to the ends of the earth.

**Reading:** How Do I Love Thee? *Elizabeth Barrett Browning*

How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.  
I love thee to the depth and breadth and height  
My soul can reach when feeling out of sight -  
For the ends of being and ideal grace.  
I love thee to the level of every day's  
Most quiet need, by sun and candle light.  
I love thee freely, as men strive for right.  
I love thee purely, as they turn from praise.  
I love thee with the passion put to use  
In my old griefs, and with my childhood's faith.  
I love thee with a love I seemed to lose  
With my lost saints, I love thee with the breadth,  
Smiles, tears, of all my life; and is God's chosen,  
I shall but love thee better after death.

**Reflection:** How does this poem speak of God's love? Do you love God with the same spirit of this poem?  
How are you being invited to respond to love?

**(Pause)**

**All:** To you we owe our hymn of praise, O God of Zion.  
To you our vows must be fulfilled, you who hear our prayers.  
You visit the earth and water it, make it abundantly fertile.  
God's stream is filled with water.  
With showers, You keep the ground soft, blessing its young sprouts.  
You adorn the year with Your bounty; your paths drip with fruitful rain. *Ps. 65:1-2, 10-12*

**Leader:** Blessings from God who creates and carries life;  
Who loves and struggles; who renews and gives life.  
May God surround you with rest and comfort and challenge your greatness and ability  
In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. *Per Harling, Sweden*