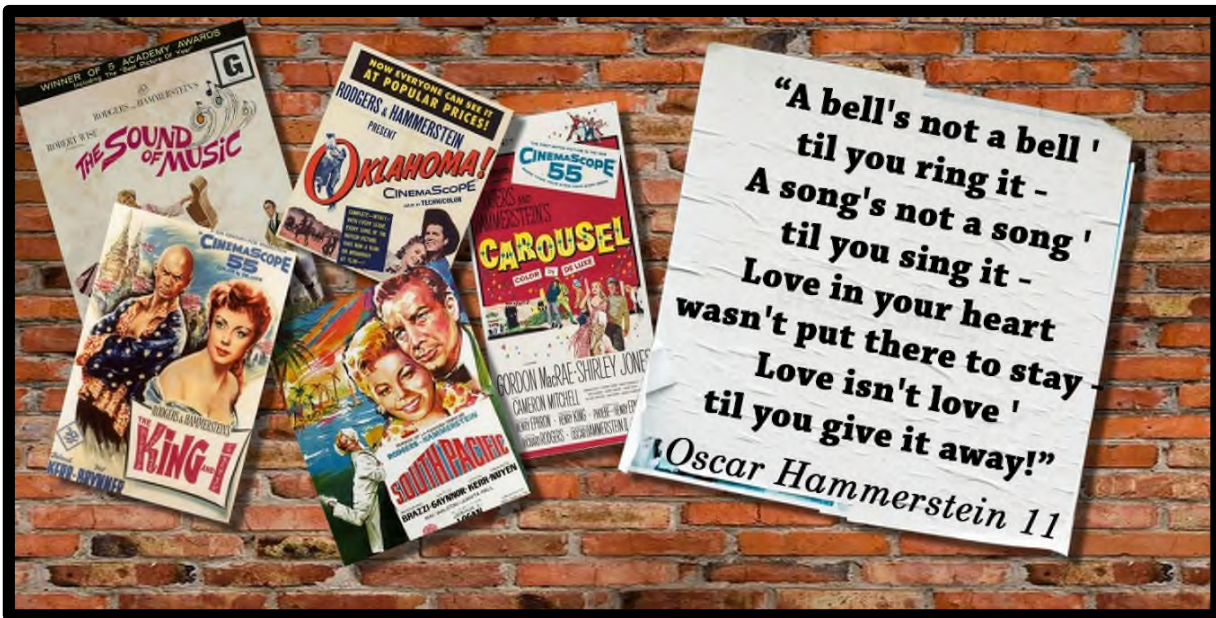


"LIFE THROUGH THE LENS



Poster images by Pinterest

A BELL – A SONG - LOVE

I can't remember where I stumbled across the words above, but they hit a cord, so I searched for the origin. To my surprise, they had been written by the famous Oscar Hamerstein11, who wrote the lyrics for about forty-five theatrical productions. Possibly the five best-known productions are "Oklahoma", "South Pacific", "Carousel", "The King and I", and the ever popular," Sound of Music". As a member of The Murray Bridge Players and Singers, I was involved in the production of many of these musicals.

Of course, a bell will remain silent, until someone rings it and a song is merely silent words on a page or in someone's mind until it is sung and shared.

As clever and famous as Oscar was, long before he wrote his first song someone had something to say about love. While Oscar writes "Love in your heart wasn't put there to stay"- love only becomes a reality when given away or shared, which is so true, he fails to acknowledge who does the "putting there". Without acknowledging how "love" is "put there", and by whom and how much love is "put there", can we fully understand what we are talking about?

A dedicated follower of Jesus (St Paul) wrote "God's love is poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit." **(Romans 5:5)** Yes "**poured**" into our hearts. Not dribbled in, or rationed, drop by drop, but filled and overflowing, like a water tank after a summer rain storm. Enough of His love to fill and overflow so others can benefit from His love flowing through you and me.

Imagine, if you can, a society where we all lived using the love, this loving God wants to pour into us. Putting God and His wishes first, then treating all whose lives we touch in ways that we would like to be treated. **(Mark 12:30 – 31)**

What makes up this "love" that comes from a God who loves and only wants what is the very best for anyone open to him, willing to say, "Yeah! I believe and trust in God as he describes himself, and His Son Jesus in His Book, the Bible, and I am happy to learn from His Son Jesus how to love like God wants me to.

What is most amazing about this love from God is that mixed into that love he wants to pour into your life is His forgiveness which never dries up.

Every day whenever you, start to feel yourself "drying up" talk to him, ask him to assure you He is still "pouring" and thank Him.

God bless you this week as you ask Him to continue filling you.



Growing
FAITH
at home

PROPER 29

YEAR B

Jesus is the
King of Kings



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LAST SUNDAY OF
THE CHURCH YEAR
Sunday between
November 20 and
November 26



CONVERSATIONS

Share your highs and lows, or respond to the following:

1. What would you do if you were a king or queen for a day?
2. Jesus is a King. What sort of King is he? When and how does he reign?
3. What does it mean to you that Jesus is your King?



BIBLE READINGS

Read the following Bible readings throughout this week.
Talk about what words or phrases stand out for you.

S	John 18:33-37	Jesus, the King of truth
M	Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14	Judgement before the Ancient One
T	Revelation 1:4b-8	Jesus reigns
W	Mark 15:1-15	Pilate questions Jesus
T	John 8:31-47	The truth will set you free
F	2 John 1:1-9	Walking in the truth
S	Psalms 93	The majesty of God's rule

VERSE OF THE WEEK

"Let us hold firmly to the hope we claim to have. The one who promised is faithful."

HEBREWS 10:23



CREATIVE RESPONSE

Endings and Beginnings: Take time this week to discuss your experience of church life over the past year. What were some highlights? What were some challenges, disappointments or difficulties? In what ways did you learn or grow?

Pray together for God's blessing upon your church and your involvement with it over the next year.

Begin to plan for your home observance of Advent. How will your family get ready this year? Some ideas include an Advent wreath with four candles, a Jesse Tree or learning the names of Jesus.

Plan and gather the things you will need to journey through Advent.



ACTION RESPONSE

As this church year ends, plan to say thank you to those in your congregation who have served you over the past year – pastors, Sunday School teachers, youth leaders and so on.

Give them a small gift, note or card in appreciation for their contributions.



MEALTIME PRAYER

Blessed be to God, our King, for health and food, for love and friends, for everything his goodness sends. Amen.



PRAYER

Lord Jesus, you are the King of truth. Help us to listen to you. Amen.



BLESSING

May Jesus, your King, bless you with his love. May he help you to know his forgiveness and give you power to serve him. Amen.