

Love (painted pebbles)

Bible Reading: 1 Corinthians 13, 1-13: Love: the universal spiritual gift

¹ If I speak in tongues of human beings and of angels but I don't have love, I'm a clanging gong or a clashing cymbal. ² If I have the gift of prophecy and I know all the mysteries and everything else, and if I have such complete faith that I can move mountains but I don't have love, I'm nothing. ³ If I give away everything that I have and hand over my own body to feel good about what I've done but I don't have love, I receive no benefit whatsoever.

⁴ Love is patient, love is kind, it isn't jealous, it doesn't brag, it isn't arrogant, ⁵ it isn't rude, it doesn't seek its own advantage, it isn't irritable, it doesn't keep a record of complaints, ⁶ it isn't happy with injustice, but it is happy with the truth. ⁷ Love puts up with all things, trusts in all things, hopes for all things, endures all things.

⁸ Love never fails. As for prophecies, they will be brought to an end. As for tongues, they will stop. As for knowledge, it will be brought to an end. ⁹ We know in part and we prophesy in part; ¹⁰ but when the perfect comes, what is partial will be brought to an end. ¹¹ When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, reason like a child, think like a child. But now that I have become a man, I've put an end to childish things. ¹² Now we see a reflection in a mirror; then we will see face-to-face. Now I know partially, but then I will know completely in the same way that I have been completely known. ¹³ Now faith, hope, and love remain—these three things—and the greatest of these is love.

Prayer (MU January 2023 Wednesday prayer)

The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. *Psalm 28:7*

Gracious God, at the beginning of this new year we put our trust in you.

Give us open hearts and minds to discern your perfect direction for Mothers' Union worldwide through the months and years ahead.

Strengthen us with resolve to embrace new ways with confidence, that we may have continued relevance in these challenging times.

Transform us into a people empowered by the Spirit, overflowing with hope, to effectively serve our communities wherever we live in your world.

Blessed are we who are strengthened by the Lord, whose trust is in him. Amen

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! *Isaiah 43:18-19*

Craft: pebble painting

You need: small pebbles from beach, pack of acrylic paint pens

Instructions: use the bible reading as inspiration for pebble painting

