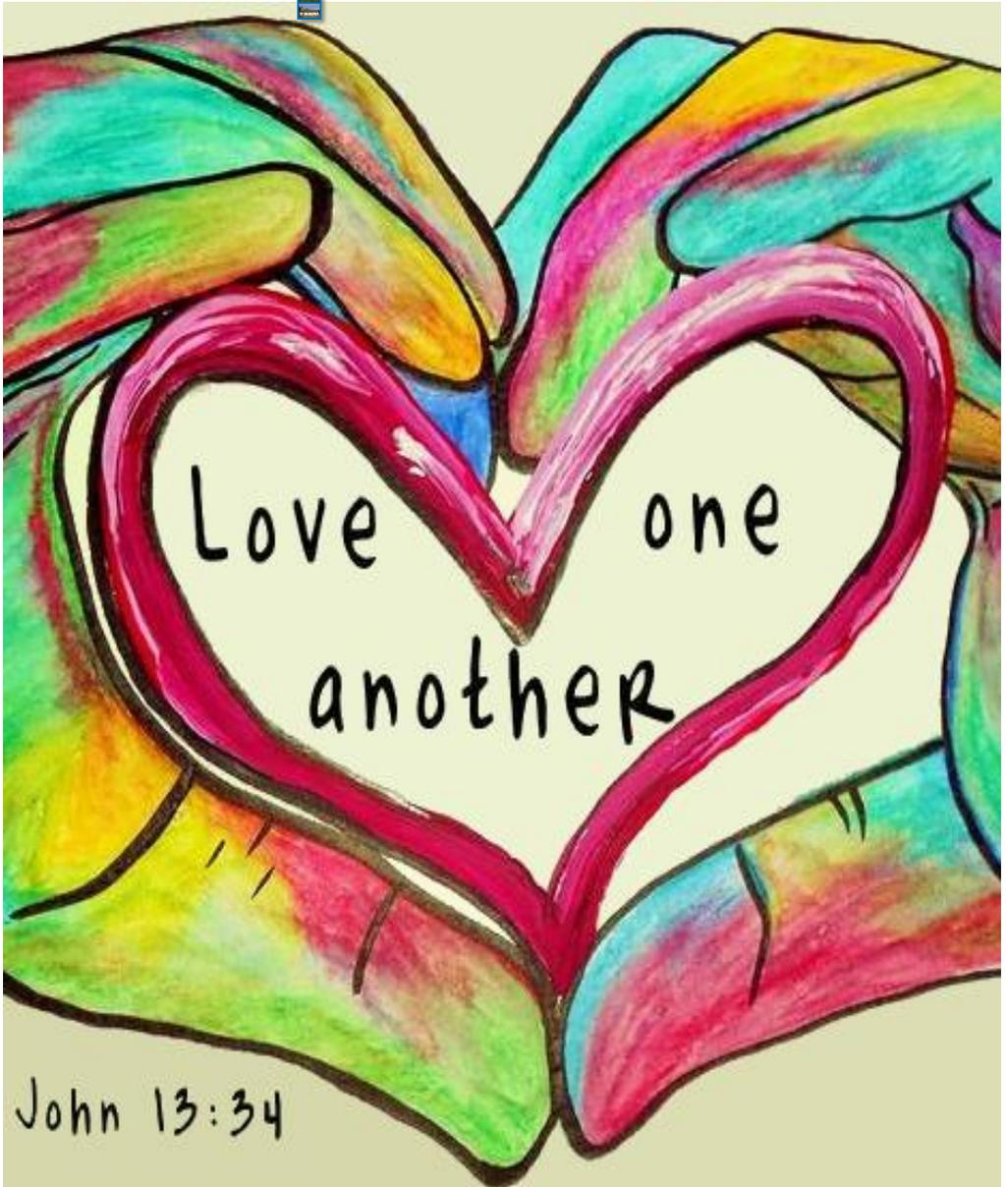




Chet Valley Churches



All Together Worship

15th May 2022

We Prepare for Worship

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

The Collect for Purity—*A Prayer of Preparation*

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden,
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration
of your Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love you
and worthily magnify your holy name
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Hymn: O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus!

**O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free;
Rolling as a mighty ocean in its fullness over me.
Underneath me, all around me, is the current of his love;
Leading onward, leading homeward, to my glorious rest above.**

**O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
Spread his praise from shore to shore,
He who loves us, ever loves us, changes never, nevermore;
He who died to save his loved ones, intercedes for them above.
He who called them his own people watches over them in love.**

**O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
Love of every love the best;
Vast the ocean of his blessing, sweet the haven of his rest.
O the deep, deep love of Jesus! For my heaven of heavens is he.
This my everlasting glory: Jesus' mighty love for me.**

The Collect—*A Special Prayer for the Day*

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and the life:
grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Confession—We Say Sorry to God

God shows his love for us in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Let us then show our love for him by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

**Father God, we ask you to forgive us
for the things we have thought; and the things we have said;
and the things we have done that do not please you.**

We are sorry.

**Help us to be more like Jesus: ready to pray, ready to help others,
ready to do your will in all things, every day. Amen.**

Absolution

May the God of love and power forgive us and free us from our sins, heal and strengthen us by his Spirit, and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord.
Amen.

We Praise God (Gradually getting louder)

The sun in the day shouts, **'Praise the Lord!'**

The moon at night shouts, **'Praise the Lord!'**

The stars in the sky shout, **'Praise the Lord!'**

Praise to the Lord—**who made us!**

The hills and the trees shout, **'Praise the Lord!'**

The animals all shout, **'Praise the Lord!'**

The birds and bees shout, **'Praise the Lord!'**

Praise to the Lord—**who made us!**

The angels in heaven shout, **'Praise the Lord!'**

All the world shouts **'Praise the Lord!'**

All of us here shout **'PRAISE THE LORD!'**

Praise to the Lord—**who made us!**



Reading: John 13:31-35

When he was gone, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once.

“My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come. A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Talk [Rev Alison]

Jesus said, “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you.” How does he love? What is his love like?

Well, he puts up with three years of living with the disciples: an argumentative, uncomprehending, maddening bunch. Though you could say that that is no different from any other family; nothing so very special about that love.

But then there are the people he associates with, the people he loves.

Zaccheus—he’s a tax collector for heaven’s sake. No-one likes them, never mind loving them. Yet Jesus invites himself to tea with Zaccheus, spends time with him, talking with him, loving him, turning him round, bringing him from outcast into community. It’s preposterous!

Then there are all those women: the woman at the well, and the woman caught in adultery. And that one who made such a spectacle of herself crying over his feet and pouring perfume over them.

Scarlet women. Shameful women. How can Jesus even associate with them, let alone talk to them? But he loves them, turns them round and brings them from outcasts into community. It’s scandalous!

And the Syrophoenician woman—I mean, she’s not even Jewish. He says as much himself yet he sits there debating with her, joking with her... And he loves her enough to listen and then heals her daughter.

Then there’s that story he tells about the man who got beaten up. Fancy suggesting that it would be a Samaritan who would come to the man’s

rescue. They really are the low life. No respectable Jew should associate with them. And yet... it was the Samaritan who loved his neighbour. It's shocking!

But it's not just the people with whom he associates, it's some of the things he does too. Doesn't he even know the purity laws? Talking to lepers, even from a distance, touching dead people. It's outrageous!

Then in that last week, demeaning himself by washing his disciples' feet. That's a job for the servants; no-one, not even your best friend, does that. But he loves them enough to do even that. And when he's sharing his last meal with them, he even lets the one that betrays him dip his hand in the same bowl—I mean he knows what's going to happen; why doesn't he just kick him out of the feast? What kind of madness is that?

And that's the point. Jesus' love is preposterous, scandalous, shocking, outrageous. It appears frankly mad in the world's eyes.

Jesus love is all-encompassing: "Love your enemies...". What? Really!

Jesus love has no bounds. Jesus died for love of each of us.

Jesus' love is radical. It is to that radical love that we are called when Jesus says, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you."

♪ **Hymn: Let There be Love Shared**

**Let there be love shared among us, let there be love in our eyes,
May now your love sweep this nation, cause us O Lord to arise.**

***Give us a fresh understanding; brotherly love that is real,
Let there be love shared among us, let there be love.***

Let there be peace shared among us...

Give us a fresh understanding; brotherly peace...

Let there be joy shared among us...

Give us a fresh understanding; brotherly joy...

Let there be hope shared among us...

Give us a fresh understanding; brotherly hope...



The Profession of Faith

Let us affirm our common faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit:
who strengthens us with power from on high,**

We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

♪ Hymn: Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred let me bring your love;
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord;
And where there's doubt, true faith in you.

*Oh, Master grant that I may never seek so much to be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love with all my soul.*

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;
Where there is darkness, only light;
And where there's sadness, ever joy.

Oh, Master grant that I may never seek...

Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
In giving to all men that we receive;
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Oh, Master grant that I may never seek...

🙏 We Pray Together

The hymn we have just sung will underlie our prayers today. After each petition the chorus will give us time for our own responses and reflections.

Loving Lord, we lift to you the leaders of the world. It's a tough job. We see oppression and violence towards their own people and people in other

countries. We see a callous disregard of people's needs. We see those with power mis-using power for their own ends.

Help them to know your love and to love their people like that.

*Oh, Master grant that I may never seek so much to be consoled as to console
To be understood as to understand to be loved as to love with all my soul*

Loving Lord, we lift to you people in the world who feel unloved. We fail to see people who are lonely and isolated, who see no-one from one day to the next. We are often not aware of those who are being abused in their own homes. We feel helpless in the inhuman treatment of people for cheap labour or pleasure.

Help them to know your love and to be comforted by it.

Oh, Master grant that I may never seek...

Loving Lord, we lift to you people in the world who feel that they are unlovable. We know that sometimes it is because of something that they have done themselves, and the shame that they feel. We know that sometimes it is because people have told them so and they live out of that reality. We know that sometimes it is because society dictates that they are unacceptable.

Help them to know your love and that each and every one of them is special to you.

Oh, Master grant that I may never seek...

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

♪ Hymn: Let Us Build a House

**Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
A place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;**

**Here the love of Christ shall end divisions;
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.**

**Let us build a house where prophets speak,
And words are strong and true,
Where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness and a symbol of God's grace;
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.**

**Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat:
A banquet hall on holy ground, where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;
As we share in Christ the feast that frees us:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.**

**Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger.
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.**

**Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter.
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.**

Blessing

The love of the Lord Jesus draw you to himself,
the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen you in his service,
and the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts:
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Go in love: love that is broad and generous;
love that is often confusing;
love that is a sacrifice; love that is self-giving;
love that is rich with others;
love that is community; love that is peace.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

