

St Paul's Church, Egham Hythe
Zoom Gathering 14th February 2021
Sunday before Lent - Valentine's Day
What does love look like?

Lord God we come together to worship you

**Help us to pray to you in faith
To sing your praise with gratitude,
And to listen to your word with eagerness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**



Hymn: God is Love Let Heaven Adore Him

God is love, let heav'n adore him
God is love let earth rejoice
Let creation sing before him
And exalt him with one voice
He who laid the earth's foundation
He who spread the heavens above
He who breathes through all creation
He is love, eternal love

God is love and love enfolds us
All the world in one embrace
With unfailing grasp God holds us
Every child of every race
And when human hearts are breaking
Under sorrow's iron rod
All the sorrow, all the aching
Wrings with pain the heart of God

God is love and though with blindness
Sin afflicts all human life
God's eternal loving kindness
Guides us through our earthly strife
Sin and death and hell shall never
O'er us final triumph gain
God is love so love forever
O'er the universe shall reign

Prayer of Penitence *(a time to say sorry to God)*

St Paul says, 'Be imitators of God; love as Christ loved; do not grieve the Holy Spirit; put away all anger and bitterness, all slander and malice.'
So let us confess our sins to God, who forgives us in Christ.

Christ came in humility to share our lives: forgive our pride.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ came with good news for all people: forgive our silence.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ came in love to a world of suffering: forgive our self-centredness.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Absolution

May the God of love bring us back to himself, forgive us our sins, and assure us of his eternal love in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Collect (*Last Sunday before Lent*)

Holy God, you know the disorder of our sinful lives: set straight our crooked hearts, and bend our wills to love your goodness and your glory in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

What does Love look like - Generous Hospitality

Reading: Hebrews 13:1-3

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured.

Reflection

Prayer

What does Love look like - Nurturing our children and young people

Reading: Luke 18:15-17

People were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them; and when the disciples saw it, they sternly ordered them not to do it. ¹⁶ But Jesus called for them and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. ¹⁷ Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it."

Reflection

Prayer

Hymn: Brother, sister let me serve you

Brother, sister, let me serve you;
Let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I might have the grace to
Let you be my servant, too.

I will weep when you are weeping;
When you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joys and sorrows
Till we've seen this journey through.

We are pilgrims on a journey;
We are family on the road;
We are here to help each other
Walk the miles and bear the load.

When we sing to God in Heaven
We shall find such harmony,
Born of all we've known together
Of Christ's love and agony.

I will hold the Christ-light for you
In the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
Speak the peace you long to hear.

Brother, sister, let me serve you;
Let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I might have the grace to
Let you be my servant, too

What does Love look like - *Discipleship, our walk with Jesus*

Reading: Luke 18:15-17

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. ³¹Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, ³²and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. ^[c] **5** ¹Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, ²and live in love, as Christ loved us^[a] and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Reflection

Prayer

The Creed

Let us declare our faith and trust 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.**

Prayers of thanksgiving and blessing for Graham and Nicky as they celebrate their wedding anniversary

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

We share the Peace

We are all one in Christ Jesus.

We belong to him through faith, heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you

And also with you

Hymn: How deep the Father's love for us

How deep the Father's love for us,
How vast beyond all measure,
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss –
The Father turns His face away,
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross,
My sin upon His shoulders;
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life –
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything,
No gifts, no power, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer;
But this I know with all my heart –
His wounds have paid my ransom

The Blessing

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**