

15 May 2022

Worship Sheet for Sunday 15 May

Servant love

Following Jesus washing his disciples feet, he goes on to give them a new commandment : love one another as I have loved you. We are apt to shy away from serving – seeing it as akin to servile – we may also shy away from being served. Both are valid and laudable and are an essential part of God’s kingdom of love. Jesus came to serve and to give his life for many. We are to be servants of the Servant king.

Call: Come and see, Jesus is here. The one who humbled himself before others, the one who chose to serve rather than be served. Come and see, Jesus is calling you, come and sit at his feet, come and learn more about how to love. Come and worship the One who is love.

Pray : Glorious God, your love is made known through the wonder of your creation: from the ‘heavenly dancers’ on winter nights, to the mysterious depths of the seas; from magnificent, towering mountains to DNA, the building blocks of life. You are the God of the vast and the small, and hold all things in your hands: we praise you, and adore you. Generous God, your love is made known through the joy of companionship: from random conversations on the bus to shared moments of connection within the wider community; from the bonds of family, to the familiarity and ease with long-cherished friends. You are the God of relationship and belonging, encouraging us to love as you have loved us: we praise you and adore you. Forgive us when we have lacked love: for you, for our fellow human beings, for this world that you have created. Turn our eyes, our hearts, our minds, and souls to you, the source of all love. Give us courage to dare to believe that love is stronger than hate; empathy to walk inside another’s shoes; imagination that dares to dream and work towards a better world. We ask, in Jesus’ name: your love made known at our human level and pray together saying Our Father...

Reading John 13:31-35. Love one another as I have loved you.

Thought Usually, people shy away from the thought of serving – perhaps because we associate it with being demeaning. There are exceptions – remember the whole country was willing to clap for carers on a Thursday night in the early weeks of lockdown by way of a thank you for their service. Serving, caring or putting yourself about for other people is part and parcel of what it is to be human, and it is a prime indicator of Christian discipleship. Jesus exemplified this – an example is given in John 13 where he washes the disciples’ feet – something none of the rest had seen fit to do. And, shortly afterwards he was to demonstrate the ultimate service by laying down his life for his friends, and for the salvation of the world. But serving isn’t only for Jesus – he gave his disciples (and us!) a new commandment – spelling out that we should love one another just as he has loved us. In ourselves that would be impossible, but he gives us his love in great measure so that it might spill over in our readiness to love and serve others, especially those who most need it. This isn’t for a particular few, it is what Jesus looks for (and is willing to provide to) all his followers. Perhaps we need to get a better handle of how important loving others is as an outworking of our faith. It is a great gift and an extremely effective tool that can help to extend his kingdom of love.

Praise MP1 A new commandment

Pray God of love, of relationship and community, help us to love, as you have loved us. We pray for all who face the dawning of a new day with anxiety or dread, who fear the knock on the door; another bill through the letterbox; the stark choice to be made between heating or eating; the long hours that stretch ahead, alone. May we be the agents of your love. Help us to notice the ones who fall through the net, those broken and worn down by the effects of poverty; those who feel disconnected and isolated from human company. God of love, of relationship and community, help us to love, as you have loved us. We pray for all who spend their lives constantly navigating barriers, those bearing the brunt of bullying, because of the colour of their skin, disability, who they love, how they worship; all who feel as if they are constantly treading on eggshells. May we be the agents of your love. Help us to walk alongside all who feel ‘othered’, those who are pushed to the margins; those whose lives and voices are silenced. God of love, of relationship and community, help us to love, as you have loved us. God of love, may your Spirit fill us with grace and mercy. And hear us as we continue to pray for peace and justice in the world, not least for the people of Ukraine, but also locally among those who need your blessing. Hear us as this week in our prayer walk we remember those who live or work in Coronation Way.

SILENCE

Lord, hear our prayers spoken and unspoken for the sake of our Saviour Jesus. Amen.

Blessing May the Lord bless you. Amen.

Notices

- In view of the decreasing numbers of covid cases in the town we have decided to remove the guidance on the wearing of face coverings in the Church. Some people may prefer to continue to wear them and that is fine. For a little while longer we will continue to have a marked social distancing area on the cemetery side.
- We would still ask that you exercise caution. Certainly, do not come to Church if you are unwell or have been in contact with someone who has tested positive or shows symptoms. Let's appreciate too that some people would still prefer to maintain some distance/wear masks so let's be sensitive and understanding.
- We continue to remember the Ukraine crisis in our prayers and in view of developments would ask people to pray for all caught up in it and for restraint and wisdom for world leaders.
- Elders gathering with the Moderator of the General Assembly this afternoon in Letham Church at 2.30pm.
- Thank you to everyone who supported the Messy Church Coffee Morning yesterday.
- Painting of props and other preps for Summer Mission – Tom Long Gallery tonight at 6.30pm.

To assist those unable to access material via the internet we have established a phone line where people can phone in to hear the mini service or sermon.

01674 902624.

To hear the mini service people just need to dial in and wait. To hear the sermon, after dialling you need to press 1 then #. In either case there is a few seconds delay while the message loads so tell folk not to hang up! If folk press 1 for the sermon before the intro finishes the system doesn't pick up on it and it defaults to the mini service. The message now says wait until after the tone before pressing 1 but give it a few seconds after that and do press # after pressing 1.

Sermon, prayers and news (or links to them) will be uploaded to our website www.oldandstandrews.com and the Old and St Andrew's Facebook page. Feel free to copy this and pass it on to Church members or friends who might not use the web or social media

Please continue to pray for one another and support where you can and remember that the congregation is united in love wherever we are and however we are worshipping.

Stay safe! May the Lord bless you!

Ian

Rev Dr Ian A McLean