



15 MAY 2022

Welcome to worship

Welcome to church this morning, we hope you enjoy worshipping with us.

Lectionary Readings

This week May 15, 2022

Acts 11:1-18
Psalm 148
Revelation 21:1-6
John 13:31-35

Next week May 22, 2022

Acts 16:9-15
Psalm 67
Revelation 21:10, 22 - 2:5
John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9

Change to morning tea

Over recent weeks we have found that, with fewer people attending worship, we are not using at least half of the brewed coffee on Sunday mornings. Since it is not practical to make a smaller quantity, Church Council and Elders have decided to provide a choice of instant coffee instead to reduce waste and expense. We will still have brewed coffee on special occasions and will review our decision when numbers start to return to pre-covid levels.

Ukraine Appeal

Act For Peace, who also run the Christmas Bowl Appeal, have sent us envelopes for their Ukraine Crisis Emergency Appeal. The envelopes are on the back table. If you are interested in giving please place your gift in the envelope and place it in the offering. Gifts are tax-deductible, just fill in your details on the envelope and we will forward them to Act for Peace.

This is a great opportunity to help those facing an enormous crisis not of their making, we encourage you to support them if you can.

You can donate until the end of the month.

Ladies Bible Study

Ladies Bible Study will meet on Tuesday afternoon at 3pm in the chapel. The study is No 5, - Prisoner and Preacher (Ephesians 3).

*I give you a new commandment:
love one another. As I have loved
you, so you must love one another.
John 13:34*



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God is Love – John 13:31-35

The context of this passage is John's account of Jesus' last supper with his disciples.

Jesus knows that his hour has come to depart from this world and go to his Father. Yet his parting words to his disciples focus not on blame for their past and future failures, but rather on preparing them for what is to come, promising that although he will no longer be physically present with them, they will not be abandoned.

Jesus focuses on the need for his disciples to live in community, to love one another as he has loved them.

On the one hand, loving one another as Jesus has loved encompasses the mundane; it means serving one another, even in the most menial tasks. On the other hand, this love encompasses heroic acts of great risk; it extends even to the point of giving one's life for another.

The love of which Jesus speaks, then, and which Jesus demonstrates in his life and death, is a love which extends from the mundane to the heroic and encompasses every kind of self-giving act in between. Jesus tells his disciples that it is by this kind of love that everyone will know that they are his disciples (John 13:35).

The love that Jesus demonstrates is certainly not based on the merit of the recipients, and Jesus commands his disciples to love others in the same way.

We disciples of Jesus have continually fallen far short in our love for one another as well as in our love for those outside the community of faith. Theological and ethical arguments often descend into personal attacks and name-calling; personal interests often trump the common good of the community; those in need of compassion find judgment instead.

Jesus could not be clearer: It is not by our theological correctness, not by our moral purity, not by our impressive knowledge that everyone will know that we are his disciples.

It is quite simply by our loving acts — acts of service and sacrifice, acts that point to the love of God for the world made known in Jesus Christ.

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