



5 FEBRUARY 2023

Welcome

Welcome to worship, we hope you enjoy being with us.

Lectionary Readings

This week 5 February, 2023

Isaiah 58:1-9a, (9b-12)
Psalm 112:1-9 (10)
1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)
Matthew 5:13-20

Next week 12 February, 2023

Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Psalm 119:1-8
1 Corinthians 3:1-9
Matthew 5:21-37

New Offering Envelopes

The offering envelopes for the new year commencing 5 March, 2023, are now available on the back table. Please take a set if you would like one.

Introducing our sponsored World Vision Children

Stanley is 13 and lives in Kenya with his mum and 2 brothers and enjoys playing football with his friends.



Lojan is 11 and lives with his mum and dad and 2 sisters in Sri Lanka. He enjoys ball games and helping at home.

Mohammed is 10 and lives in Bangladesh with his parents and 2 brothers. He enjoys ballgames and playing with his friends.



Thank you to those who have donated towards the sponsorship of our children. We need \$1548 to pay for our sponsorship each year, if you are able to contribute please give your donation to Karen S or you can transfer money direct to our bank account, the details are BSB 112 879, account number 428 172 081, please put your name and WV in the reference if possible.



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Thoughts on John 13:31-35

The new commandment in this text — to love one another — is arguably one of the more famous statements in the biblical text. Loving those with whom we agree or are partial to is the easy part. Loving the rest of the folks we come in contact with is a much harder proposition.

Martin Luther King, Jr. famously said that “Peace is not the absence of war but the presence of justice.” Our world changes when justice prevails. When we love one another — no matter who they are — justice and peace become part of our reality. When we work for justice and equality we are fully living into the love we are commanded to show one to the other by Jesus.

For Jesus, love did not mean a sweet sentimental feeling. It meant action. It meant actively loving — putting one’s love into real world activities. This new commandment comes as part of a farewell address by Jesus to his followers. And he does this with a sense of tenderness and mercy.

We so often draw lines about who we will love and who we will be tempted to cast in the role of “less loving” in our lives. This happens in the hearts and minds of both individuals — and the church. An interesting thing to note in this text is that Jesus is reminding the disciples that they will be known to others by their acts of loving. We would do well to listen to this commandment. We also are called to love others as a mark of our own discipleship.

This act, to love others, is a distinguishing mark of the followers of Christ then and will continue to be (verses 34-35). Some would say that one of the weaknesses of the church today is the way many Christians do not embody this commandment — or the others — commanding his followers to love their neighbour.

Jesus was bold and clear then. How much clearer do we need Jesus to be for our own lives of discipleship now?

Associate Professor Karyn Wiseman <https://www.workingpreacher.org>