



S^t Thomas' Cathedral

Mumbai • Estd 1718

The Church of North India

A member of the worldwide Anglican Communion

The Sunday before Lent Quinquagesima

TEXT FOR THE DAY

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude.

It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;

it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth.

It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends.

1 Corinthians 13 is a piece of poetry written by an early Christian leader named Paul. Paul had founded a church in the city of Corinth, and he was trying to help them live in the way of Jesus Christ. The people, though, were struggling. They lived in a culture that worshiped a variety of idols that could be bought and sold in the markets of the harbour city of Corinth. Many also struggled with immorality, with competing for places of honour, with lack of consideration for one another. Paul saw this and said to them in a letter, "But now I want to lay out a far better way for you."

That "far better way" is the way of Christian love. As Paul describes it to the people, it is not the romantic love we think of when we think of weddings. Heroic actions without love are meaningless. Paul tells us that love is more of a practiced art, a daily habit needing to be grown in us, a way in which we need to be trained together. It is an art that observes patience and exercises kindness. It is an art that does not insist on its own way, but can see others' viewpoints. It is the practice of learning compromise and cooperation and reconciliation. The Christian love that God intends for us to share with is all about demonstrating small acts of kindness. It is practiced by doing for others without looking for our own glory.

Let's practice a life of love like this as if our lives depended on it, because they do!

Becky Jo Messenbrink,

Pastor, Glendale United Methodist Church, Savage, Minnesota



Sunday 14 February 2021

8.45 am

Welcome

|The Preparation & Gathering|

Voluntary

Intermezzo

Max Reger (1873 - 1916)

Please stand as the procession enters.

“Love divine all loves excelling”

Opening Hymn

Sung by the Cantors.

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of Heav'n to earth come down;
Fix in us thy humble dwelling;
All thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,
Pure unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.

2. Come, Almighty to deliver,
Let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Never more Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing,
Glory in Thy perfect love.

3. Finish, then, Thy new creation;
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see Thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in Thee;
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in Heav'n we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

*Words: Charles Wesley (1707 -1788)
Music: John Zundel (1815 – 1882) • Tune: Beecher*

Call to Worship

The Presbyter

O God, you are our rock and our fortress.

All

In you we find strength to go on.

The Presbyter

We praise you for the gifts of faith, hope, and love.

All

**We will live out our call to be all
you have created us to be.**

All sit.

Welcome

Adoration

The Presbyter

O Lord, open our lips:

All

And our mouth shall declare your praise.

The Presbyter

Early in the morning we make our prayer to you, O Lord;

All

Surely you will hear our voice.

The Presbyter

Your light springs up for the nations

All

and all the peoples have seen your glory.

The Presbyter

Glory to the Father, our Creator;
Glory to the Son, our Redeemer;
Glory to the Spirit, who sanctifies us

All

**As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
to the end of the ages. Amen.**

Prayers of Penitence

Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

All say

**O God most holy and merciful,
we confess that we have sinned
against you and one another,
in thought and word and deed,
and in what we have not done.
Therefore we pray you to have mercy on us,
and forgive us our sins. Amen.**

The Presbyter says

The almighty and merciful God grant us pardon and remission of all our sins, grace to amend our life, and the strength of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us.
All **Amen.**

All say the Lord's Prayer

**OUR FATHER, who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name; Thy Kingdom come;
Thy will be done; in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that 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.**

|The Ministry of the Word|

The Collect for Quinquagesima

The Presbyter

O Lord, who hast taught us that all our doings without charity are nothing worth: Send thy Holy Spirit, and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of charity, the very bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whosoever liveth is counted dead before thee: Grant this for thine only Son Jesus Christ's sake.

All **Amen.**

God's Covenant with Noah

THEN God said to Noah and to his sons with him: "I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you—the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you—every living creature on earth. I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth." And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth." So God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth."

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm • 26. 1 - 7

Response **Prove me, O Lord. I walk in faithfulness to you.**

Vindicate me, O Lord, for I have walked with integrity,
and I have trusted in the lord without wavering.
Prove me, O Lord, and try me; test my heart and mind.
For your steadfast love is before my eyes,
and I walk in faithfulness to you. **R.**

I do not sit with the worthless, nor do I consort with hypocrites;
I hate the company of evildoers, and will not sit with the wicked. **R.**

I wash my hands in innocence, and go around your altar, O Lord,
singing aloud a song of thanksgiving, and telling all your wondrous deeds.
O Lord, I love the house in which you dwell, and the place where your glory abides. **R.**

All stand for the Gloria Patri.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Please be seated.

The Epistle

from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 13. 1

THOUGH I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

“O love, how deep, how broad, how high!”

The Gradual

While seated, follow the words as the Cantors sing.

1. O love, how deep, how broad, how high!
how passing thought and fantasy,
that God, the Son of God, should take
our mortal form for mortals' sake.
2. For us to wicked men betrayed,
scourged, mocked, in crown of thorns arrayed;
for us he bore the Cross's death;
for us at length gave up his breath.
3. For us he rose from death again,
for us he went on high to reign,
for us he sent his Spirit here
to guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.
4. All honour, laud, and glory be,
O Jesu, Virgin-born to thee,
all glory, as is ever meet,
to Father and to Paraclete. Amen.

Words: 15th cent., trans B. Webb

Music: Grenoble Church melody, arr. R. Vaughan Williams

Tune: DEUS TUORUM MILITUM

All

The Gospeller

All

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

The Gospel of Christ

St. Luke 18. 31 - 43

When the Gospel is announced *all say* **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

JESUS took the twelve aside and told them, “We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled. He will be delivered over to the Gentiles. They will mock him, insult him and spit on him; they will flog him and kill him. On the third day he will rise again.” The disciples did not understand any of this. Its meaning was hidden from them, and they did not know what he was talking about. As Jesus approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. ³⁶When he heard the crowd going by, he asked what was happening. They told him, “Jesus of Nazareth is passing by.” He called out, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” Those who led the way rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” Jesus stopped and ordered the man to be brought to him. When he came near, Jesus asked him, “What do you want me to do for you?” “Lord, I want to see,” he replied. Jesus said to him, “Receive your sight; your faith has healed you.” Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, praising God. When all the people saw it, they also praised God.

The Gospeller

All say

This is the Gospel of Christ.

Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

The Cantors sing

Sing them over again to me,
wonderful words of life;
let me more of their beauty see,
wonderful words of life;
words of life and beauty
teach me faith and duty.

Beautiful words, wonderful words,
wonderful words of life;
beautiful words, wonderful words,
wonderful words of life.

Philip Bliss (1838 - 1876)

Remain standing and recite together.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth:
 I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
 He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
 and born of the Virgin Mary.
 He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried.
 He descended to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again.
 He ascended into heaven,
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
 I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting.
 Amen.

All sit.

The Sermon

The Revd Avinash Rangayya

Please stand.

| The Sharing of the Peace |

The Presbyter Jesus said "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you" (John 14:27)
 The peace of the Lord be always with you

All and also with you.

While remaining in your place, share the sign of peace with a namaste with your neighbour.
 Please kneel as able or sit.

Invocation

Sung by the Cantors

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

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

Dave Bilbrough (b. 1955)

| The Prayers of the People |

Supplications in our weekly prayer requests are made; before reading the prayers printed below.

Intercessor God of Love,
 we confess we are sometimes impatient, and often unkind,
 we are quick to envy, and find subtle ways to boast.
 There are times we are rude, and lift ourselves up as we put others down.

All **Loving God teach us to love.**

Intercessor God of Love,
 we confess that we are quickly angered.
 We are quick to record how often we've been wronged.
 There are times we celebrate the misfortune of others.

All **Loving God teach us to love.**

Continued.

Intercessor God of Love,
we confess that we put ourselves first.
We're reluctant to give, we are slow to sacrifice.
There are times we hesitate to protect.

All **Loving God teach us to love.**

Intercessor When we are tempted to judge, to assume the worst,
may love remind us to trust.
When we are tempted to despair, to assume all is lost,
may love remind us to hope.
When we are tempted to give up, to assume it will never happen,
may love remind us to persevere.

All **Loving God teach us to love.**

All stand and say

The Closing Prayer

O Christ, we know that the gifts of our hands are no substitute for the loyalty of our lives. As we leave this sanctuary enable us to serve your creation as we have worshipped you, with ourselves as well as our gifts.

Let the word of Christ dwell in us richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in our hearts to God. And whatever we do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him:

Benediction *The Presbyter*

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

"To God be the Glory"

Hymn at the Closing

Follow the words as the Cantors sing.

1. To God be the glory, great things he hath done, so loved He the world that He gave us His son, who yielded his life an atonement for sin, and opened the life-gate that all may go in.	2. O, perfect redemption, the purchase of blood, to every believer the promise of God. The vilest offender who truly believes, that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.
---	---

Refrain

Refrain

Refrain Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
and give Him the glory, great things He hath done.

3. Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son,
but purer, and higher, and greater will be
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. *Refrain*

*Words: Frances Crosby (1820 -1915)
Music: William Doane (1832 – 1915)*

Worship material for this service bulletin has been sourced from:

- *Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England* <https://www.churchofengland.org>
- *The Book of Common Prayer*
- *Morning and Evening Prayer of The Church of North India*
- <https://www.rethinkworship.com/1-corinthians-13-responsive-reading-about-love/> : Dan Loewen
- *The Abingdon Worship Annual* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B.J. Beu
- *The English Hymnal (1933)*, Oxford University Press

The Dismissal

The Presbyter
All

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Postlude

Allegro maestoso e vivace, from Op. 65 No. 2

Felix Mendelssohn (1809 - 1847)

~~~ Prayer Requests and Announcements ~~~

Your prayers are requested for:

- † the families of all those who have lost their life in the recent landslide in Uttarakhand. Pray for the ongoing relief operations to rescue those who are trapped.
- † the Pandemic to ease, for all who are unwell and all frontline workers.
- † all those who are unable to physically attend church services. Especially pray for all senior citizens.
- † the Women's Fellowship for Christian Service (WFCS); for the office bearers: Supriya Telgote (President), J Jaisy Desai (Secretary) and Nalina Sathiaraj (Treasurer).
- † Aarin Verman Salvi who was baptized recently.
- † in the Diocese: St. Thomas Church, Ambernath and the Revd Samson Balid.
- † the Church of North India's Diocese of Phulbani (Odisha) and the Rt Revd Bijay Nayak (Deputy Moderator).
- † the Church of South India's Diocese of Karimnagar (Telengana) and the Rt Revd Reuben Mark.
- † in the Anglican Communion, for the Church in Canada and Archbishop Linda Nicholls.
- Lent begins with **Ash Wednesday** on February 17. There will be services with imposition of ash at 7am and 6pm.
- Lenten **Bible Study** will be held every Wednesday at 7pm online on Zoom. The link will be sent in advance.
- **The Diocesan Council** will be held at St Peter's School, Mazagaon on February 27, 2021.
- A reminder to members to pay their annual subscription before March 31, 2021.
- You may place your offering in the box at the entrance. There will be no offertory collection.

~~~ Birthdays this Week ~~~

May God bless you abundantly.

Rachel Joseph (16), Raj Iype (19), Rita Kamal (20)

~~~ Wedding Anniversaries this Week ~~~

Be blessed with love, joy and companionship all the years of your life.

Monica & Roberts Palukuri (18)

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, February 17, forty-plus days before Easter Sunday on April 4th.

During Lent we recommit to Christian practices such as prayer, almsgiving, fasting, and reconciliation to prepare to enter the mystery of Easter. Through these practices, we deepen our commitment to the Christian life and prepare to renew their baptismal promises.

During Lent, the whole Church is invited to a "holy observance...by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word." (The Book of Common Prayer)

As per Government and Diocesan guidelines, you are requested to strictly comply with the following:

- Please cooperate with the Security as they carry out the mandatory checks before you enter.
- Make use of sanitizers kept at the entrance.
- Wearing of face covering is mandatory at all times throughout the service.
- Congregational singing is not yet permitted.
- Maintain the distance as indicated by the positioning of the chairs.
- Please take this service bulletin home with you. It is mandatory to do so.
- Leave as soon as the service is over. Avoid gathering outside in groups.
- Presently administration of Holy Communion is not allowed. Until further instructions from the Bishop, the service will be that of the Liturgy of the Word. Read the Diocesan advisory carefully.

ST. THOMAS' CATHEDRAL

3 Veer Nariman Road, Fort, Mumbai – 400 001

Presbyter-In-Charge: The Revd. Avinash T. Rangayya

Telephone: (Vestry) **2283 9783**, (R) **2207 1275, 98207 50090**

Contact the Presbyter for pastoral visits and administering Communion to the house-bound.

FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY. PLEASE TAKE THIS SERVICE BULLETIN HOME WITH YOU.