

6th Sunday of Easter

5th May 2024



**“These things I command you,
that you love one another.”**

John 15:17.

**Take me
Home !!**

Rector's Tidings

We are again reminded today that the heart of Christianity is love: love of God, love of one another. Jesus tells us that we have to love one another as he has loved us. This is a very demanding love, for it commits us to love not only those we like and who love us or like-minded fellow Christians, but also the difficult ones, the "unlovable," people far from perfect, outsiders... That is not so easy, and this is probably why he calls it a commandment. Let us ask our Lord in this eucharist that we may grow in this openness of genuine love.

We are often surprised how inventive love can be and to discover it where we had not expected it. It makes a dour husband surprise his wife with an unpredictable gesture of tenderness or a couple in the slums adopt a child found abandoned in the street. God's astonishing love is the source of it all. He shows it when he gives up his own Son for us. Jesus kept giving a human shape to God's love when he cared for people and gave new chances even to outcasts, the unloved and the unlovable. Today he calls us his friends and he tells us: "Love one another as I have loved you." With these words he challenges us in today's eucharist.

Fr Hugo

Entrance Hymn:

217 The church's one foundation

Collect:

God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to

eternal joy; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading: A reading from Acts (10:25-26,34-35,44-48):

As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him, knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up. 'Stand up,' he said 'I am only a man after all!'

Then Peter addressed them: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.'

While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God. Peter himself then said, 'Could anyone refuse the water of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have?' He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm (98):

R./ The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done wondrous deeds; His right hand has won victory for him, his holy arm. **R/**

The LORD has made his salvation known: in the sight of the nations he has revealed his justice. He has remembered his kindness and his faithfulness toward the house of Israel. **R/**

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation by our God. Sing joyfully to the LORD, all you lands; break into song; sing praise. **R/**

Second Reading: A reading from 1 John (4:7-10):

My dear people, let us love one another since love comes from God and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Anyone who fails to love can never have known God, because God is love.

God's love for us was revealed when God sent into the world his only Son so that we could have life through him; this is the love I mean: not our love for God, but God's love for us when he sent his Son to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn:

16 Be still and know that I am God

Gospel Reading

Hear the The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (15:9-17):

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete.

This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you. A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends, if you do what I command you. I shall not call you servants any more, because a servant does not know his master's

business; I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father.

You did not choose me: no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last; and then the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name. What I command you is to love one another.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

Prayers of Intercession

As you have called us to be friends, to reveal your love and the joy of your presence, we come with sorrow for the divisions of the Church and the world. We seek forgiveness for rivalry and disunity within the Church, Lord, strengthen us in love and lead us to a unity that reflects that we are one in you. May any divisions within our community be healed and well-being restored.

Lord, as you love us,
help us to love one another.

We come before you as part of a world caught up in violence, war, hatred, greed and hunger. There are people who are oppressed and treated as slaves. There are people who are counted as nothing, rejected and unloved. Lord, forgive us and change us. Strengthen all who work for the peace and well-being of May we share in the care of all suffering people.

Lord, as you love us,
help us to love one another.

We give you thanks for all our loved ones. for their and sacrifice for us. all who feel unloved and unwanted. generosity We pray for homes where there is hatred or violence. Where there are a little respect for each other, where there is neglect. We ask your blessing upon all who have been taken into care.

Lord, as you love us,
help us to love one another

Lord of love, we remember before you all who are lonely. We ask your blessing upon those who are ill or injured. We pray for all who are raging against life and all who are not at peace with themselves or the world. for all who have hardened their hearts against love.

Lord, as you love us,
help us to love one another.

We rejoice in your saving love and that you have called us to eternal life. We remember loved ones departed from us. As we give thanks for their friendship we pray that they may know you as their friend in your eternal kingdom.

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Intercessions

- **For the Church:**

For Justin, our archbishop, Christopher and Martin our bishops and for the bishops, priests, deacons and people of the Diocese of The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East.

For everyone at Christ Church and St Matthew's

- **For the world:**

Zimbabwe, Russia and Ukraine, the Holy Land.

- **For our community:**

The Charity Shop and Food Cupboard. For Indiebride. The Halls Trust and Co-op business centre . Christ Church Primary School, Van Gogh Primary School and Reay Primary School. For our local services, including the post delivery.

- **For the Sick and Bereaved:**

Alice, Anastasia, Bangori, Chester, Christina, Fay and family, Gladstone, John, Julie, Kandy & Benji, Karen, Kenneth, Maria, Neville, Pam, Ruby, Robert, Ron and Stephen.

Offertory Hymn

34 Come down O love divine

Communion Hymn

80 I am the bread of life

Post Communion Prayer

God our Father, whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life: may we thirst for you, the spring of life and source of goodness, through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn

62 Great is thy faithfulness

Services This Week

Sunday 12th May Eucharist, 11am followed by PCC
Spanish Mass, 6pm

Next Baptism Preparation Session

Our next FREE preparation session for all those exploring children's baptism will be on Saturday 18th May from 9.30-10.30am. We will share breakfast together, sing and have a bible story with puppets and go through parts of the Baptism service looking at water. Children, parents/guardians, grandparents, other family members and potential godparents are all welcome to attend. Don't worry if you missed the first one, and coming to the session doesn't commit you to the July 7th Baptism but it is a way to explore and find out more about what Baptism is and whether it is right for your children or grandchildren.

Next Bubble Church

Sunday 2nd June, 9.45am

Next PCC meeting

Next Sunday 12th May after the service with Bishop Martin

Regular Giving

We welcome online donations, which you can make via scanning the QR code. Many thanks for your generosity.



Daily Bible Verse Reflections

Monday Acts 16:14 - Tuesday Acts 16:33 - Wednesday Acts 17:30

Thursday Acts 1:8 - Friday Acts 18:9

JOIN OUR TEAM

WE ARE HIRING

FUNDRAISER OFFICER

• PART TIME POSITION

INTERESTED?

PLEASE EMAIL YOUR CV TO DOP@STMATT.CO.UK

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