

Church Together

Love That Has No Limits!

2nd June 2024



Welcome

In today's Service we will be looking at: **1 John 4 v. 7 - 21**

The theme for our service today is: **Love That Has No Limits!**

Today our service also includes: **Communion**

We hope that you will be able to engage with everything that has been produced for today's service and that you would be able to **Reflect The Love Of God To Others In A More Practical Way**

Call To Worship

Psalm 100 v. 1 - 5 NLT

Shout for joy to the Lord, O earth!

Worship the Lord with gladness.

Come before him, singing with joy.

Acknowledge that the Lord is God!

He made us, and we are his.

We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving;

go into his courts with praise.

Give thanks to him and bless his name.

For the Lord is good.

His unfailing love continues forever,

And his faithfulness continues to each generation.



When God's love
hits your heart, it
changes you.

Opening Prayer

Father God thank you that you have brought each of us safely to this place today.

We invite Your Holy Spirit to move freely amongst us.

Come dwell in each of our hearts. Equip us, challenge us, comfort us, teach us. As we read your word in Scripture today, inspire us as we learn more about your majestic ways. Father God, as we meet may we behold Your beauty and encounter your grace and love.

Thank you that today we are able to dwell in your kingdom and live in your presence and love. Thank you that as we gather together we join with all Christians across the world to glorify your holy name.

Loving Lord Jesus, as we gather here we thank you for fellowship and friendship. We ask that you would strengthen us, restore us and inspire us with your love.

Lord, would you fill us with your peace so that as we journey onwards we would pour out your love and grace to others.

Loving Lord Jesus, in the security of this moment, we confess to you that we have often failed to live up to the reasonable expectations that you require of us. In the name of Jesus who welcomed sinners and lifted up the downcast, we ask you to forgive us for what we have done and what we have made of ourselves.

Today we celebrate your great love for us Lord. Today we celebrate Your mighty power. Refresh our faith we pray, in your willingness to accept us, help us enjoy our standing as your much loved children, and enable us to live lives in which you can take delight today, we pray.

We ask these prayers as we come to you this day, in the precious and glorious name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

Amen

Song Suggestion

As The Deer Pants For The Water



Bible Reading

1 John 4 v. 7 – 21 NIV

God's Love And Ours

7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

13 This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. 14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world. 15 If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. 16 And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. 17 This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. 18 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

19 We love because he first loved us. 20 Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they


have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. 21

And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

Song Suggestion

Let There Be Love Shared Among
Us





There is no place that you can
go where God's love isn't.
You'll *never* be separated
from God's love.

Communion

As we gather today we come to share in this act of Communion together, remembering the love and sacrifice that Jesus made for us on the Cross. We remember the price that he paid for our sins and for our forgiveness. We gather together here in Church as the body of Christ in order to share the bread and the cup together. We come in faith, conscious of our weakness, seeking to renounce our sin, humbly putting our trust in Christ, and seeking his grace, as we look forward to the day when he will come again.

A prayer of Thanksgiving:

Heavenly Father, we offer you this day our praise and thanksgiving; we thank you for raising Jesus to life again and exalting him so that we might call him 'Lord', as we offer our faithfulness to him and seek to share in his ways. Loving Lord, we thank you for the gift of your Holy Spirit, powerfully present in your people and your world, for the fellowship of your church, and for all the means of grace and the hope of glory. Living God, fill us with your Spirit, that as we share this bread and this cup we may feed on the body and blood of Christ, and be empowered for service in your world. Heavenly Father, accept our prayers and thanksgiving in the name of Jesus, the light of the world and the life of your people.

Our normal practice is to say these words:

For I received from the Lord what I also pass on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of

me.' In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

1 Corinthians 11 v. 22 - 26

After all have received the bread and the cup and after a period of silence, we end with these words in a Prayer of Thanksgiving for the blessings received at the Table:

Leader: Your death, O Lord, we commemorate. Your resurrection we celebrate. Your final coming we await. May the glory be to you, O Lord.

Response: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Loving Gracious God, we praise you for what you have given and for what you have promised us here. You have made us one with all who know you as Lord and Saviour. You have fed us with the bread of life and renewed us for your service. Now we give ourselves to you and we ask that our daily living may be part of the life of your eternal kingdom, and that our love may be your love in the world where we find ourselves., through Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray these things.

Amen

Church Together

Thought

We are told that love is the essence of God's nature, therefore we could say that all true love has its origins in God. Love is the one word that totally sums up God's being. True love we are told, comes from God as we find in **1 John 4 v. 7** which says: 'Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God', simply because as **1 John 4 v. 16** tells us: 'And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them'. To find God is to discover what true love is all about.

1 John 4 v. 9 tells us that God sent his Son into the world, and from him we learn that his love, is sacrificial in that Christ died, as we read in **1 John 4 v. 10**, and it is beneficial in that it was 'for our sins' as **1 John 4 v. 10** tells us.

We may know and experience the love of God. Notice in **1 John 4 v. 7** that love 'comes' from God. This happens essentially when we are born of God and receive new life from him as seen in **1 John 4 v. 16**. When God comes into a person's life, he brings himself; that is, he doesn't bring a selection of his virtues but all of them, including his love, because they are essential to his being. Key to all of this is **1 John 4 v. 17** which says: 'This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus', but it is apparent throughout. Our love should be both

sacrificial and beneficial, as reflected in 1 John 4 v. 16.

John begins his letter with his aim, which is, that we should learn to love one another. He then unfolds this teaching as he moves forward in the letter. Let's look at the progression of what John has to say:

FIRSTLY, JOHN UNPACKS THE COMPREHENSION OF LOVE

We are told in **1 John 4 v. 7 – 12** which says: 'Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.

Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us' that our heavenly Father loves us so much that he sent his Son to save us; as we grow to be more like him, we also grow in our ability to love one another with a sacrificial love. Many of us feel our spiritual renewal would be greatly accelerated if only we could see God. But no one has seen God the Father; he is seen through his people when they love one another. That is why it is so important for us to restore relationships with the people we have harmed. That is also why we need the fellowship of believers – because we need the love that they offer.

This type of love is not the shallow, self - gratifying sensuality common today and regularly shown on TV, but the pure and majestic nature of God; his person, actions and thoughts displayed through his people.

SECONDLY, JOHN TALKS ABOUT THE REVELATION OF LOVE

When we look at **1 John 4 v. 13 – 15** which says: 'This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. 14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. 15 If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God' we see that the assurance of this love comes from believing that Jesus is the Son of God, because that ability to believe is proof that God himself, through the Holy spirit, is living in us. Confession of Christ is both the evidence and the expression of a genuine faith and love for God. It is more than intellectual belief; our confession of Christ must lead us to a confession of sin and a commitment to both live and love for God. We do this as we take responsibility for our lives and deal with past failures and broken relationships in the true meaning of what it is to love, as Christ first loved us. Jesus said in **John 14 v. 9**: 'Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father'. Jesus is the personification of the Father; therefore, he is also the personification of the Father's love. This we are told is brought out in the personality of Christ, through his kindness, mercy, gentleness, strength of character etc.

FINALLY, JOHN REVEALS THE REFLECTION AND RESULT OF LOVE

1 John 4 v. 7 – 21 is a passage that abounds in the richness and loving mercy of God, found in Jesus, that is exercised through our loving of each other as brothers and sisters together in Jesus Christ. **1 John 4 v. 16 – 21** says: 'And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in

them. 17 This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. 18 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. 19 We love because he first loved us. 20 Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. 21 And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister' and this tells us that John once again spoke about the importance of love.

True Christianity is characterized by loving relationships in which there is no fear. Experiencing such relationships – first with God, then with other believers – is at the heart of our spiritual renewal. We can and should trust God wholly, without fear, because our punishment for sin has already taken place in Christ. Therefore, where love reigns, we can be transparent with fellow believers, trusting that our honesty will not be used to hurt us. Mature Christian love delights in helping others, and it creates an environment in which we can develop accountability and a new sense of responsibility towards ourselves and towards others.


Here we come back to John's aim, and it is the imperative that is brought out in **1 John 4 v. 11**: 'We also ought to love one another'. It comes with the force of a command to give attention to these things.

How then might we as both individuals and as church be able to reflect that kind of love that we see reflected in this passage in more practical and more obvious ways?

Song Suggestion

Restore O Lord The Honour Of
Your Name





Whoever does not *love*
does not know God,
because God is *love*

1 John 4:8

Prayers Of Intercession

Loving Lord, as we gather in your love today give us strength of purpose and faith in you we pray, in order to take decisions seriously, to understand the consequences of our actions for others, as well as ourselves, and, always, to seek your guidance through prayer.

We are reminded today, Loving Lord, of our responsibilities as your people to follow instructions and laws in order to be good disciples. When we hear and watch the news, we see and are reminded that times are often difficult for many, so help us to protect others and ourselves. Help us to remember that the church is not the building, the Church is actually the people. Help us Lord to work together as your people to stay connected with each other and with you through loving acts of kindness and blessings.

We think and pray for those who are homeless, the unemployed, the asylum seeker and those in greatest need. Lord Jesus be with those who find themselves lost and alone in society. Support all those who work and volunteer in society to bring hope to these people.

We pray for our families and friends. Lord we all face the normal ups and downs of life in many different ways. We thank you that our Saviour Jesus knows our every situation. Help us we pray to face the different situations we face with conviction, courage and love.

We pray today for the world - wide church and we pray

especially for the local churches here in Huddersfield and for our own church family here at Salendine Nook. We pray for all who minister to the community in whatever way and in whatever role, may you guide and support them in all that they do.

We continue to pray for those who are unwell at this time, both at home and in hospital, or hospice. We think of the elderly, the housebound and those in care homes who may be known to us personally. We pray for all those who care for their needs, and so again, as we share a moment of silence together, we bring before you those known only to ourselves and name them before you, Lord Jesus, in our hearts.

And finally, Lord we pray for ourselves. Help us Lord to follow your example in all that we do and say as we journey with you. We place ourselves, this Church and all your people into your loving care. Please accept these our prayers, in Jesus name.

Amen

Song Suggestion

How Deep The Father's Love For
Us



Tithes, Gifts & Offerings

No matter wherever you are, whatever you do, whoever you are, together we can grow as Church Together here at Salendine Nook.

If you feel that your are able to, then please keep on giving with a cheerful and grateful heart, praising God for all that he has given to you and share in the finances of the church.



How to know if love is for real?

**True love
is always
behaviourally
demonstrated**



The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in Heaven
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
On earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power
And the glory, forever and ever.

Amen

Song Suggestion

I Will Offer Up My Life



Blessing

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work among us, to him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!

Ephesians 3 v. 20, 21

Amen