

Saturday 28th March 2020

Prayer:

Loving God, in a world where bad news dominates good, and where people seek a contentment that can seem elusive, your gospel offers good news for all not just for some. For a lifetime not just for a day, for every place not just for those favoured in our world.

Give us we pray the faith to be ambassadors of your lifegiving gospel wherever we may find ourselves.

The strength to be your messengers of hope even when we are confronted by the deepest despair.

The grace to demonstrate love in our words and our actions, the courage to withstand a culture of cynicism and negativity even when it threatens to overwhelm us.

The humility to show the same generosity, self-giving love to others as Christ in his self-giving has shown to us. Amen.

Jennifer Potter supernumerary minister, Corydon Circuit

Lectionary Reading

1 Corinthians 13:1-13 New International Version (NIV)

¹If I speak in the tongues^[a] of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ²If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast,^[a] but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

⁸Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. ¹¹When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. ¹²For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

¹³And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Singing the Faith²⁴²

A new commandment I give unto you :
that you love one another as I have loved you,
that you love one another as I have loved you.
By this the world shall know that you are my disciples,
if you have love one for another.
By this the world shall know that you are my disciples,
if you have love one for another.

Anonymous

Psalm 121

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills,
from where is my help to come ?
- 2 My help comes from the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not suffer your foot to stumble ;
he who watches over you will not sleep.
- 4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel,
shall neither slumber nor sleep.
- 5 The Lord himself watches over you ;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,
- 6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day,
neither the moon by night.
- 7 The Lord shall keep you from all evil ;
it is he who shall keep your soul.
- 8 The Lord shall keep watch over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth for evermore.

From *Common Worship*

Closing Prayer

Prayers for Lent

Your Word reveals to us a simple truth,
that sin entered this world
through human folly
in believing we could be like you,
and permeated history
through envy, selfishness and greed.
Yet sin, which holds us tight
within its grasp
cannot resist a heart that is touched
by your grace through Jesus Christ,
cannot contend with Living Water
pouring into hearts and souls.
Your Word reveals to us a simple truth,
that sin is defeated
and we can become
the people we were always meant to be,
by your grace through Jesus Christ.

Amen