

Worship on July 4, 2021

Order of worship

We Gather

- Welcome and Announcements
- Call to worship
- Praise song – Amazing Love
- Prayer for worship + Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance

We Listen

- Prayer for illumination
- Scripture: John 13:31-35
- Sermon: L.O.V.E. what matters the most
- The Lord's Table

We Respond

- Offering – How Great is our God

We Serve

- Benediction

Ponder Upon Questions

Announcements:

- . Welcome! Grace and peace to you all who are worshipping God with us live right now and those who are worshipping God through this video. This is Sunday, July 4th, 2021. As we worship our loving Father God, let us lay down our whole selves before his presence.
- . Bible study after worship. Please stay for sharing lives and thoughts, and prayer for each other.
- . Worship volunteers are always welcome.
- . Thank you for your support with your gifts. God may use our gifts and us for this world and our community.

As we come into the presence of our God, let us calm down our hearts and minds, and focus on our Lord.

Responsive Call to Worship

One: Great is the Lord;

All: and greatly to be praised.

One: Praise God in the cities and towns,

All: and in all the quiet places.

One: Praise God on the mountains and hilltops;

All: and in every valley, on every plain and in the deeps.

One: We gather to raise our voices in praise with all God's creation;

All: let us praise God's holy name together, here and everywhere.

Praise song – Amazing Love

Prayer For Adoration and Confession

Great are you, O God, and greatly to be praised in all places and at all times. You have made all things and called them good. You created humans in your image. You gave us breath and life, a calling and a purpose. Filled with love for all creation, you lift up leaders and send out disciples to take part in your reconciling work in the world. Your love is endless, your mercy without measure, your faithfulness without limit. And so we praise you with all our strength, mind, heart and soul, in the name of Jesus, your Son, led by your Holy Spirit who guides us day by day.

God of overflowing grace, we are a people blessed with abundance, and yet we take so much for granted. We do not recognize that your gift of life is precious, and so we waste time on things that do not matter. Preoccupied with our own needs and desires, we close our eyes to the needs of those around us; we close our hearts to those who are not like us. We turn away from opportunities to learn and grow. In your mercy, forgive us, O God. Change our hearts and renew our calling to be bearers of your peace, and witnesses to the work of your kingdom.

This time, we come to you in prayer that you taught us how to pray: (The Lord's Prayer:)
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Sisters and brothers in Christ at St. Andrew's, While it is true that we have all sinned, it is a greater truth that we are forgiven through God's love in Jesus Christ.
To all who humbly seek the mercy of God I say, In Jesus Christ our sin is forgiven.
Be at peace with God, with yourself and with one another.

Prayer for Illumination:

All-knowing God, we long to hear you speak a word for our times and our lives.
By the power of your Spirit, open our ears to hear your Word this day.
Give us insight into the good news we witness in Christ, your Living Word.
Fill us with the desire to follow him in faithfulness. In Jesus' precious name, Amen.

Scripture: John 13: 31-35

31 When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. 32 If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. 33 Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' 34 I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

"This is the word of the Lord / Thanks be to God."

SERMON: L.O.V.E. What matters the most

Today's sermon title is "L.O.V.E. What matters most"

Life is all about love. God is love and he wants us to learn how to love. It is in loving that we are most like God, so love is the foundation of every command God has given us. **"For the whole**

law is summed up in a single commandment, “You shall love your neighbour as yourself.” (Galatians 5:14)

Yet, is loving easy? Yes, if we just love whom we want. But, this is not the point. Our neighbours could be someone we want to love, but they could be someone we want to run away from. But, still, God wants us to love all of them. Not just love in our own ways, but we are told to love them, just as Christ has loved us. **“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.” (John 13:34)**

How are we doing here? How is our love for the people around us?

The background of today’s scripture is Jesus told what would happen to him to his disciples. **“Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, “Where I am going, you cannot come.” (John 13:32-33)**

Jesus knew that he had to take up the cross and die on the cross to accomplish the salvation of human being. And he knew that the time was very close. So, at this moment, Jesus was giving his last word to his beloved disciples.

When giving your last words, what would you say to your loved ones? I haven’t thought of what I should say, but we know that it is the time to say something very important to me. My last word should be something matters most to my loved ones. And for Jesus, it was love. **“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.” (John 13:34)**

Jesus continues, **“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (v35)** Love determines our identity.

Jesus told us to love one another so that we are known as his disciples. So, having love for others determines whether we are Jesus followers or not. That is the last word of Jesus to his disciples.

So, love is something we should put our first priority. Love is not just a good part of our lives, but it is the most important part. The best use of our life is LOVE.

Life without love is really worthless. Paul writes, **“If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.” (1 Corinthians 13:1-3)**

Many times, our relationships become one of our do-to lists. We squeeze our relationships into our schedule. It is not easy to find time for our children or making time for people in our lives. It gives the impression that relationships are just a part of our lives along with many other tasks. BUT, God says relationships are what life is all about.

Jesus summarizes the whole Bible into two commandments. Love God and love others. God focuses on love more than anything in our lives.

And love is the only thing that will last forever. We achieve many things. Some makes great business, some builds schools, some invents great technologies. But, at the death bed, what they look for is not something they spent all their lives. It’s not what they earned. It is someone they love, always. We don’t want to be surrounded by our diplomas or awards that we earned through

our lives. But, we want to be surrounded by people we shared love. This is the wisdom we are to learn when we have opportunity to exercise love.

How we exercise love is God's way of measuring our spiritual maturity. That is, our quality of relationships shows our spiritual maturity. **Galatians 5:6, "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything; the only thing that counts is faith working through love."** The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love."

Then we ask, how should we express our love? What should we do to show our love? The importance of things can be measured by how much time we are willing to invest in them. The more time we give to something, the more we reveal its importance and value to us. If we want to know our priorities, we can check how much time we are willing to offer.

Time is our most precious gift because we only have a set amount of it. We can make more money, but we cannot make more time. When we give our time, we are giving a portion of our lives that we will never get back. Our time is our life. Love is sharing our time and love is giving our life, just like Jesus did to us. Jesus loves us and he gave his everything. He gave up his job, his family, his position as a respected teacher, his comfort, and his life. **John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."** That is the love we are receiving from God. The best use of our life is love. And this love determines our identity as the disciples of Jesus. Let us love one another and show the world our true identity.

Let us pray.

Loving Father God, thank you for loving us. We have received your amazing love. You saved us because of your love for us. Thank you. Because you showed the love, and because you created us in your own character, we have love in us. Many times, it's hiding behind our own selfishness, but we sure have your love in us. In our daily lives, let us live in your love and fill our hearts so that your love may overflow in our lives to our surroundings. We can't love without you. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

The Lord's Supper – Communion

Congregation of Jesus Christ, the Lord has prepared his table for all who love him and trust in him alone for their salvation. All who are truly sorry for their sins, who sincerely believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior, and who desire to live in obedience to him as Lord, are now invited to come with gladness to the table of the Lord.

(Great Prayer of Thanksgiving:) ***(Please say BOLD print together)***

L: The Lord be with you. **P: And also, with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts. **P: We lift them to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

L: God of love and grace, by your wisdom, you created the whole earth for us, so that we enjoy your presence and witness your love. With your saving grace, you became the sacrificial offering for our sin. You cleansed us and made us whole. We are amazed by your love and we lift up our voices to you praising your love and grace and power. **We lift our hearts in joyful praise.**

(Sanctus) Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of Your glory, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

L: Holy God, source of life and goodness, all creation praise you and honour you. The perfect sacrifice of Jesus Christ destroyed the power of sin and death! By the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are given the eternal life. How marvellous is your love and grace for us. Therefore, **we proclaim the mystery of faith:**

P: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

L: Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour are yours, almighty God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the BREAD and Pouring the WINE

Take, eat, remember, and believe that the precious body of our Lord Jesus Christ was given for the complete forgiveness of all our sins. (BREAD)

“This is the body of Christ, given for you.” (Let us take it)

Take, drink, remember, and believe that the precious blood of our Lord Jesus Christ was shed for the complete forgiveness of all our sins. (CUP)

“This is the blood of Christ, shed for you.” (Let us drink it)

Prayer after Communion:

God of grace and love, your salvation came upon us by your sacrifice. By your love, we have life. Thank you. You want us to remember this love in all that we do in our daily lives. Help us honour you in our lives. As we remember your love and your sacrifice for us, let your love fill our hearts so we are standing firm on your love and because of the confidence we have, let us show your love through our lives.

God of forgiveness, we come before you humbly in repentance. In the name of church, we were selfish and we were oppressive. We used your name for our own power and fleshly desires. It resulted so name death of precious children in the past. We say sorry, but what then? We are helpless to make compensation. And are we really willing to make changes? Proclaiming their land right is better than nothing, but we cannot give up anything that we think we possess. God of grace and mercy, forgive our past wrongdoings and forgive our selfishness facing our ugly truth.

We pray for our next generation. School ended. Not many summer camps. Out of system, out of daily routines, they are coming into summer vacation. The great influence of mass media with all kinds of things without filtering in the name of culture, the fear of corona virus that causes them to stay home longer time, and the busy-ness of adults around them, they are left alone without any guidance where to go and what to do. Although we try, it's never good enough to give enough love and guidance for them. We cry out to you for your help. Pour out your wisdom and fill their hearts with the desire of knowing you and fill their lives with your presence. So they have you in their hearts. You are the only hope for their future.

Lord God, you are the head of church. Take the steering wheel of our church and let us step down with humble hearts and seek your guidance. For our church, for your precious church, help us and give us ear to listen to your wisdom. In Jesus' precious and powerful name, we pray. Amen.

Invitation to the offering: This is the time for offering. The Gospel of Mark reminds us that Jesus met both trust and unbelief in his ministry. We know that our ministry is also challenging

and meets with different responses, too. Whatever we offer to God, we give in faithfulness, trusting that God will bless all our efforts in Jesus' name with surprising results. Let us pray.

Offering prayer:

Faithful God, we bring our gifts with trusting hearts, seeking your blessing on the ministries these gifts support. Work through our gifts and our lives, to touch the world with your healing grace through Christ, in whose name we offer ourselves to you. Amen.

Praise song – How Great is our God

Now, it is the time for us to be sent to the world. The best use of our life is LOVE. Let the love of God fill our hearts so his love overflows from us to our family, to our church, and to the whole nations.

Benediction

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, And the Love of God, And the intimate fellowship of the Holy Spirit, Be with us all, now and always. Amen.

Ponder Upon Questions:

1. Honestly, are relationships my first priority? How can I ensure that they are?
2. What are the barriers that keep me from loving and caring for others / other believers?
3. What can help open our hearts before we truly love each other?