



PENTECOST 23B – BEAUFORT DISTRICT UNITING CHURCH

Love is ...

Abstract

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Pentecost 23B – Beaufort District Uniting Church

[Email address]

OLD TESTAMENT

Deuteronomy 6:1–9

6 These are the commands, decrees and laws the LORD your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, ² so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the LORD your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. ³ Hear, Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your ancestors, promised you.

⁴ Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵ Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. ⁶ These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. ⁷ Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ⁸ Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. ⁹ Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

GOSPEL

Mark 12:28–34

²⁸ One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”

²⁹ “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ³⁰ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ ³¹ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

³² “Well said, teacher,” the man replied. “You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. ³³ To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

³⁴ When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” And from then on no one dared ask him any more questions. ⁱ

respond

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Pentecost 23B – Beaufort District Uniting Church

Love is ...

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2021 | 23RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST | PROPER 26 | YEAR B

Old Testament & Psalm, Option I

Old Testament Ruth 1:1–18

Psalm Psalm 146

or

Old Testament & Psalm, Option II

Old Testament Deuteronomy 6:1–9

Psalm Psalm 119:1–8

New Testament Hebrews 9:11–14

Gospel Mark 12:28–34ⁱⁱ

A scribe, a Jewish teacher, asks Jesus about the most important of Moses' commandments. Jesus gives the 'correct' answer from the perspective of Jewish Scripture, but also offers an addition, giving a clear insight into what lies at the heart of his spiritual mission. The scribe takes Jesus' answer to mean that love for God and neighbour is more important than Temple worship, and Jesus commends him for his wisdom.

This week we explore our commitment to love God, ourselves and others.

	Pre-Service
	<p>Introit TIS #107 (AHB #25) – “SING PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING” v1</p>
	<p>Greeting</p> <p>May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ The Love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all</p> <p>and also with you</p>
	<p>We Gather</p> <p>Call to worship Let us write God's word onto our hearts as we share in worship together. Let us listen to Scripture with the child Jesus and like him grow strong in wisdom.</p> <p>Acknowledgements We acknowledge thepeople, the first inhabitants and custodians of this place from time beyond remembering.</p>

	<p>A gathering prayer Praise be to God for the words written in Scripture throughout the ages. God is good and we are one.</p> <p>Praise be to God for the good news written to tell us about Jesus. God is good and we are one.</p> <p>Praise be to God for all words written in our hearts to inspire and guide us. God is good and we are one.</p> <p>We are from love, of love, for love. Amen.</p>
	<p>Hymn/song TIS #59 (AHB #10) – “All people that on earth do dwell” They'll know we are Christians by our love</p>
	<p>Welcome The cartoon comic strip ‘Love is...’ began in the 1960s (based on real love notes the author wrote to her husband). Some are witty and funny, others can be quite serious and ‘deep’.</p> <p><i>Video</i></p> <p>On this wall in Montmartre ‘I love you’ is written in 250 different languages.</p> <p>A prayer of approach God of love, you call us to come before with love in our hearts. We all have our own ideas and experiences of what love is.</p> <p>From the human to the divine. From the smallest flicker to the greatest flame.</p> <p>We offer ourselves to you now, seeking to learn more about the depth and breadth of your amazing love. We need to know how to put that love into action, share that great warmth with our neighbour, every day of our lives. Still us before you now and enable us to receive. Amen.</p>
	<p>We say Sorry</p>

Love the Lord your God with all your heart
and with all your soul
and with all your mind
and with all your strength.'

The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'ⁱⁱⁱ

Lord God, we confess that we struggle to love others.
Sometimes we don't even recognise who our neighbour is,
never mind knowing how to love them.
Encourage us in your ways, O Lord.

We confess that we don't always realise
that to show love to others,
first we have to learn to love ourselves.
Sometimes we haven't a clue how to do that.
We may have an ideal in our head of what love is,
then get cross with ourselves when we fall short.
Encourage us in your ways, O Lord.

We confess that we have the idea that love is
this great dramatic gesture or action,
when sometimes it can be as small as a touch of a fingertip.
Encourage us in your ways, O Lord.
Amen.

Words of Assurance

The God of all heaven and earth
looks upon us now with love.
He wraps us tightly in his arms.
His love pardons us, enfolds us,
emboldens us to accept that our sins are forgiven,
and we can go into the world to reveal his love.
Praise be to God.
Amen.

Readings

Deuteronomy 6:1–9
Mark 12:28–34

respond

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Hymn/song/video

Hymn/Song

They'll know we are Christians by our love

	Response
	Hymn/song TIS #650 – “The servant song” Gillard
	Offering OFFERTORY SENTENCE: In Christ we are set free! Let us bring before God our gifts of gratitude. OFFERTORY PRAYER: Loving God, we come before you with these gifts and with our very lives. Use them and us to grant freedom in this your world. Amen.
	Notices
	Prayers for all people <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a think about a brief description of a typical day in your life <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ or at least look at the common elements. • Now consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ what are my routines? ○ Are they helpful? ○ How might I do things differently? • Let’s spend some time praying praying that God will reveal the things in our lives that need changing, and praying that your life will be filled with love for God and love for others <p>Help us today, Lord, to pause and remember you. Sometimes our lives feel so busy. Give us reminders of your presence and help us to notice them. Each moment when we cease one task, and turn to begin another, may we stop for a moment and lift our hearts to you.</p> <p>Loving God, we think of those whose lives are scarred by hate and fear, by the actions of others, or by the thoughts of their own hearts. We pray for your love-light to shine upon them, to transform the bitterness and pain and bring peace to those troubled by conflict and terror. May we be carriers of your healing love, spreading hope in our hurting world. In Jesus’ name. Amen.</p>
	Lord’s Prayer

	<p>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.</p> <p>(English Language Liturgical Consultation, 1988.)</p>
	<p>Hymn/song TIS #658 - "I, THE LORD OF SEA AND SKY"</p>
	<p>We are sent out May the word of God dwell in our hearts, in our minds and in our actions, every day of our lives. Amen</p> <p>May the Lord bless us and keep us May His face shine upon us and be gracious to us May he lift up His countenance upon us and give us peace</p>
	<p>Benediction TIS #107 (AHB #25) – “SING PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING” v2 3</p>
	<p>Thank you</p>

ⁱ [Revised Common Lectionary](#). (2009). Bellingham, WA: Faithlife.

ⁱⁱ [Revised Common Lectionary](#). (2009). Bellingham, WA: Faithlife.

ⁱⁱⁱ The New International Version. (2011). (Mk 12:30–31). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.