



‘Worship at home’ Sunday November 3rd 2024



As we come to worship, we pray that we
will know God’s love and be challenged to
love others as we are loved.

Opening

We are called to love the Lord our God

We are called to love with all our heart and soul

We are called to love the Lord our God

We are called to love with all our mind and strength

We are called to love the Lord our God

And we are called to love our neighbour as ourselves.

Come, let us love our God

and share God’s love in this time of worship!

~ written by Rev. Mindi <http://rev-o-lution.org/>

The call to love God, and love others as we love ourselves is a familiar theme throughout the Scriptures. As Jesus reminds us, it is a guiding principle of our faith. As we reflect, we realise there are three parts to this instruction, and they are not always easy:

1. Love God
2. Love our neighbour
3. Love ourselves

**Which aspect of this
commandment
do you find most difficult
at the moment?**

Why?

**When have you been called to
love in a challenging situation?**

How did you do this?

Love God.
Love your
neighbors.
And while
you’re at it,
love yourself.

We are not always able to follow the ways of Christ.
They can be demanding and challenging.

**Confess before God the times when
you have failed to love as you would
have liked to...**

**Know God's forgiveness and grace,
and be assured that you are always
able to make a new start.**



Mark 12:28-34

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?" "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than

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

New International Version

This story comes after a series of conversations about what is important to faith and discipleship, and how to interpret Scripture. Until now the religious leaders had been questioning Jesus' teaching, but here we find Jesus agreeing with the teacher of the law. Loving God is fundamental to faith: these words from Deuteronomy 6 are part of Jewish daily prayer practice, and a basic teaching of our Christian faith. We are to love God, 2

not simply as an intellectual assent or affirmation of belief, but with all of who we are. Loving God does not occur in isolation from our lives amidst a world in need. Thus, Jesus expands the traditional instruction to include words from Leviticus 19, with the command to also love one's neighbour. Love of self comes out of love for God, as we are created in God's image, from which flows love for others. Just as we are worthy of love, so is our neighbour.



Loving God, loving ourselves and loving others is not always easy. However, when we understand the importance of this, like the teacher of the law, we come closer to the kingdom of God.

What is one thing you can do differently this week to deepen your love for God?

What is one thing you can do differently this week to show love and care for yourself?

What is one thing you can do differently this week to show love for a neighbour?

Spend some time reflecting on these questions, and commit yourself to how you might live these out.



This week some parts of the world have celebrated Halloween, and then All-Saint's Day. **Think of people you know who you might call "saints". What qualities do they display to make you see them in this way?** What more saintly quality can there be than to love God, to know oneself to be loved, and to show generous, abundant love to others.

What does Christ ask of us?

**To love God with all our heart,
and all our soul,
and all our mind,
and all our strength,
and to love our neighbour as ourselves.**

Christ does not call us to ease or to comfort;

**But to presence, and abundance,
and grace in our struggle.**

Let us trust in the God who trusts in us,
believes in us, and abides with us.

**Let us trust in the God who will ask much of us,
but will be beside us every step of the way.**

~ adapted from Eliza Buchakjian-Tweedy

<http://sermonizing.wordpress.com/>

Pray for:

- the people we find easy to love
- the people we find difficult to love
- ourselves, that we might be loving in our actions
- those who feel unloved, or unlovable
- those who long to love and be loved
- 'saints' who go out of their way to care for those in need
- churches and other organisations who seek to support the most vulnerable in our midst



Closing

Throughout this week,
may each of us know
the transforming love of God,
the compassion of Christ,
and be empowered by the Holy Spirit
to love our neighbour in all we do.
Amen!