

St Nicholas - 06.10.24

Call to worship

Hymn - Seek ye first (MP590) (3x verses)

Prayer & Lord's prayer

All age – Love God

Hymn – Jesus name above all names (MP375) (1x verse, sing twice)

Bible - 1 John 4:7-17 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 Savior 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.

Bible - Mark 1:1-8 NLT

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

1 This is the Good News about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God. It began 2 just as the prophet Isaiah had written:

“Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
and he will prepare your way.

3 He is a voice shouting in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord’s coming!
Clear the road for him!’”

4 This messenger was John the Baptist. He was in the wilderness and preached that people should be baptized to show that they had repented of their sins and turned to God to be forgiven. 5 All of Judea, including all the people of Jerusalem, went out to see and hear John. And when they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River. 6 His clothes were woven from coarse camel hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. For food he ate locusts and wild honey.

7 John announced: “Someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I’m not even worthy to stoop down like a slave and untie the straps of his sandals. 8 I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit!”

Reflection – Loving God and shouting about it

Hymn – Will you come and follow me (A&M510/CH4 533) (5x verses)

Offering – Praise God from whom all blessings flow (1x verse)

Prayer of Intercession

What a great world it would be, God our Friend, if we all kept our lives grafted in Christ Jesus, the True Vine, and like good branches produced the bountiful fruits of his Spirit.

God we pray for your earthly family,
That they may know the fullness of your love.

What a great world it would be if we cared for the sick and the handicapped, the diseased and the mentally ill, like Jesus did.

God we pray for your earthly family,
That they may know the fullness of your love.

We think now of those who we know are ill and for those that are grieving.

We think of Winnie and family.

We also name others now in the silence.

[Pause]

God we pray for your earthly family,
That they may know the fullness of your love.

What a great world it would be if we sought the lost and bewildered people and restored their dignity and hope, as Jesus did.

God we pray for your earthly family,
That they may know the fullness of your love.

What a great world it would be if we opened our hearts to misfits and outcasts, and our arms to the untouchables, as Jesus did.

God we pray for your earthly family,
That they may know the fullness of your love.

What a great world it would be if we practiced forgiving our enemies, and doing good to those who spitefully abuse us, like Jesus did.

God we pray for your earthly family,
That they may know the fullness of your love.

What a great world it would be if we let others borrow what we have, and gave gifts without looking for reward, as Jesus did.

God we pray for your earthly family,
That they may know the fullness of your love.

What a great world it would be if we created a new community out of disparate types of people, as Jesus did with his disciples.

God we pray for your earthly family,
That they may know the fullness of your love.

What a great world it would be if we were prepared to carry our own crosses with the courage and faithfulness of our Lord Jesus Christ.

God we pray for your earthly family,
That they may know the fullness of your love.

Loving God, bind us close to your lovely Christ, let his Spirit flow within us, healing our defects and enabling us to produce the fruits of love both in and out of season. To the glory of your name. Amen!

Hymn – Great is thy faithfulness (MP200) (3x verses)

Benediction