

**Order of Service for Sunday 14 February 2021**

**Introduction**

**Hymn** God is love, his the care

**Praise**

**Confession**

**God of love and mercy,  
we come before you knowing that we are in need of forgiveness.  
We have sinned against you in our speaking and in our silence;  
in our thinking and in our thoughtlessness;  
in our actions and in our inaction.  
We have sinned against you,  
in not loving you with our whole heart and soul and strength;  
in not loving our sisters and brothers in Christ.  
Grant us, O Lord, your forgiveness,  
restore us in the image of your Son,  
and lead us along the way to your kingdom,  
to the glory of your name.  
Amen.**

**Absolution**

**Canticle** *A song of love and hope – verses from Romans 5 and 8*

**Our hope is not in vain,  
for God's love has flooded our inmost hearts.**

Now that we have been justified by faith,  
we are at peace with God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**And so we exult in our hope of the splendour of God  
and we even exult in the sufferings we endure.**

For our hope is not in vain,  
because God's love has flooded our inmost hearts  
through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

**When we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly,  
he died for us while we were still sinners,  
and so God's love for us is revealed.**

We are more than conquerors through Christ who loved us,  
for nothing can separate us from the love of God  
which is ours, through Jesus Christ.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**Our hope is not in vain,  
for God's love has flooded our inmost hearts.**

**Hymn** My song is love unknown

**First Reading** 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 – Alison

- (1) 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.
- (4) Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant
- (5) or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;
- (6) it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth.
- (7) It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
- (8) Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end.
- (9) For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part;
- (10) but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end.
- (11) When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways.
- (12) For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known.
- (13) And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

**Hymn** Gracious Spirit, Holy Ghost

**Second Reading** Matthew 5:43-48 Dorothy

- (43) "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.'
- (44) But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,
- (45) so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous.
- (46) For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?
- (47) And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?
- (48) Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

**Hymn** A new commandment

**Sermon**

**Hymn** Come down, O Love divine

**Affirmation of Faith**

**We believe that God is love.**

**We believe that God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,  
so that all who believe in him should not perish,  
but have everlasting life.**

**We believe that we love God because he first loved us.**

**We believe that those who love God  
must love their brothers and sisters also.**

**We believe in the power of love.**

**We believe that love unifies the one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

**Amen.**

**Prayers**

The response to "Lord, in your mercy" is "**Hear our prayer**".

**Hymn**

The king of love my shepherd is

**Collect**

**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 for ever.**

**Amen.**

**Hymn**

Love divine, all loves excelling

**Blessing**