

Lent 2016 (1): True Love, John 15:9-17 VALENTINE'S DAY ALL AGE

Welcome and opening prayer

LENT CROSS (Carolyn) (S)

HYMN: 217 God is love, let heaven adore him (to tune of I will sing...)

INTRO: (S) This morning we are going to be thinking about Love – Draw a picture or write the name of someone (or something) you love on heart that you were given on the way in. On back write why?

Come and hang on special tree..... (Music)

Just like we're thankful for the people we love, we're thankful to God too, so we're going to sing a song:

SONG: (S) Thank you God, for this fine day.....

Just like a tree we want our love to grow both for these people and others. But just like tree we need to tend it, feed it, water it..... and sometimes we don't, do we? Not everything in our lives makes us proud of ourselves. So we're going to take a moment to say sorry for the things we've said or thought or done that have not made others smile or be happy or maybe that you know would make God sad. SORRY PRAYER ON SLIDE (S)

Loving God, thank you that you love us. We're sorry that we don't always show your love to others: for the things we say or do or think that are wrong. Please forgive us, and help us this week to love others as you love us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

(S) The good news is that God loves to forgive our wrong doings, he is so full of love and is so generous that he says that we can start over and have a clean slate. (EXTEMPORE THANK YOU PRAYER)

VALENTINE'S DAY QUIZ (S)

SONG: (S) God's love is big

READING: (S) John 15:9-17 (Rachel)

TALK: Thinking about love – what is love? (S) (TURN TO NEIGHBOUR – ASK)

Hard to define. (**SHOW MARRIAGE PREP DVD**)

Lots of people think love is feeling (like chap on DVD). That kind of love celebrated on Valentine's Day. Turned into all kinds of stuff (S)

But most of us know that that's not really what love is: **SHOW CAPTAIN**

CORELLI CLIP: Love is what is left over when being in love has burned away.

Love is really a doing word. Not about how we feel, but what we give.

Jesus with friends in Upper Room, tells them what love is. He says: (S) 'love one another like I have loved you.' How did he love us: 'Greater love has no one than this, that he lays down his life for his friends.' Love is about sacrifice, about serving others. Not very glamorous, but what love truly is – it's what remains when being in love has burned away.

Red is colour of passion, but also colour of blood. Why red a good choice of colour – not for romance, but for blood, for service. For giving of ourselves to others.

Jesus says: love as I have loved you – I gave myself for you – now you give yourself for others.

Funeral next week of a man called Valentine – loved till 97, but born on 14th Feb so parents called him Valentine. Asked family how coped with that – fine! Lived up to name – not because Romeo, but married to wife for 65 years, and cared for her until shortly before he died – they were both 91 and she had dementia, but she was still at home, doing all the cooking and cleaning. That is love.

Starting Lent today – season when we look towards cross, and think about Jesus love. Today reminds us what true love is all about. Not about what we get or how we feel, but what we give.

Heart to take away – God’s love. As eat it, think of how you can pass that love on to others. How could you help or serve someone this week? And remember, that it’s God who inspires us – as we see how God loves us that gives us the strength to love others. (PRAYER)

SONG: (S) 751 Wide, wide as the ocean

PRAYERS (S)

NOTICES, GLEANINGS, BIRTHDAYS

1. Lent lunches (flier) – first one this Tues at Broughton Pavilion
2. Last call for Lent groups (e.g. Tues (not this week), Wed am, Thurs eve)
3. Children’s church needs helpers – new rota out
4. WWDP Fri 4th March 7.30pm Ctk (Cuba) men & women - Cynthia

HYMN: 114 Come down O love divine

Take heart on way out – remember to pass God’s love on

BLESSING

Use final exit – (S) Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ, Amen.**

