

**Weekly Service**  
**The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity**  
**6<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

**WELCOME**

*Rev Tim Bateman, St Luke's Gas Street*

Good morning, and welcome to the Church of England online service. My name's Tim Bateman, and I'm the associate minister at St Luke's Church, which is part of Gas Street Church here in Birmingham. And this morning, buckle up your seat belts, because a team of us from around Birmingham are going to be leading us in our service. This morning, we're going to be marking the beginning of the new academic year, as teachers, and support staff, and children across our nation go back to school. And we've themed this service around "God's Love in Action".

And we've got a few different people who are going to be contributing this morning. We've got St Thomas's School, which is part of the All Saints Multi-Academy Trust, which is next to St. Luke's; some of the children and teachers there at that school, are going to be contributing to parts of our worship this morning. We've got Sarah Smith, who is the Director of Education here in Birmingham Diocese, who's going to be sharing her vision for education in our area. And we've got Matt Thompson, who's the Dean of Birmingham, who's going to be preaching to us. We'll also be hearing from a few other voices as well.

But as we begin our time of worship, let's prepare our hearts before God.

Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ  
be always with you

**All**     **and also with you.**

Let's take a moment to ask God, by his Spirit, to convict our hearts of anything in which we have done, or said, or thought in the last week, where we have not followed in God's ways. Let's spend a moment now asking the Holy Spirit to convict our hearts.

And let's confess our sins, saying these words:

**All**     **Lord God,**  
**we have sinned against you;**  
**we have done evil in your sight.**  
**We are sorry and repent.**  
**Have mercy on us according to your love.**  
**Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.**  
**Renew a right spirit within us**  
**and restore us to the joy of your salvation,**  
**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

May the Father of all mercies  
cleanse *you* from *your* sins,  
and restore *you* in his image  
to the praise and glory of his name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

And in that freedom that we have in Christ, we're going to worship God now in song. Let's worship.

### **HYMN**

Love Divine, all loves excelling

*Recorded this week by St Martin's voices, directed by Andrew Earis, with Ben Giddens (organ)*

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heaven to earth come down,  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
All thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesu, thou art all compassion  
Pure, unbounded love thou art;  
Visit us with thy salvation,  
Enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver,  
Let us all thy life receive;  
Suddenly return, and never,  
Never more thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
Serve thee as thy hosts above,  
Pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,  
Glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation,  
Pure and spotless let us be;  
Let us see thy great salvation,  
Perfectly restored in thee:  
Changed from glory into glory,  
Till in heaven we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before thee,  
Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

*Words: Charles Wesley  
Tune: Blaenwern*

## **GOD'S LOVE IN ACTION**

*Pupils and staff at the All Saints Multi-Academy Trust*

Well Praise God! We're going to be hearing now from the teachers and children at the All Saints Multi-Academy Trust about their wonderful vision to put "God's Love in Action". Watch this clip now.

*God's love in action is our school motto and it's what underpins everything that we do, in school. I'd hope that anybody who came into school with all the different things that we do would see God's love in action running through them.*

*I think about first Corinthians thirteen, it speaks about love is kind, that's what we have here at this school. Kind to the student and each other and all the staff.*

*We demonstrate God's love in practical ways, such as kindness and showing kind acts to others, with a hope that if you show kindness to others, they'll show kindness to you.*

*And that's all about the love, acceptance and forgiveness. Of course for me that's sort of the heart beat of what we're about, is, you know we love our children, actually we accept them where they are.*

*Recently we've used the analogy of a stick of rock, which says 'God's love in action' on it, and that runs through everything that we do. And that's where I would be saying to anybody from the school this is our starting point, this is what we are basing everything on. We would talk about telling the truth and sharing, instead of having everything for yourself, thinking of others, and not just yourself. So Christian values, they promote peace and goodwill and forming really strong healthy relationships, as Jesus would teach us in the Bible.*

*The values that we embed in them will hopefully last them a lifetime, and they come back and they have become that person that they want to be.*

*There's a Christian value for me, in particular that I like to follow, it's 'service', and Jesus showed and demonstrated his love for others by serving the people, and so I want to be someone who serves others, to demonstrate that love, so that they will feel loved and happy.*

## **NEW TESTAMENT READING**

*Pupils from St Thomas' School*

Well that was so wonderful to hear. We've now got some of the children from St. Thomas' school, as part of the All Saints Multi-Academy Trust, lead us in our reading. Today's reading is from 1 Corinthians 13. We'll then hear from Matt Thompson, the Dean of Birmingham, who'll be preaching to us.

## 1 Corinthians 13:1-8a

*From the Good News Bible*

*Children of St Thomas, CE Academy*

One Corinthians, Chapter Thirteen, verse one to eight.

I may be able to speak the languages of human beings and even of angels, but if I have no love, my speech is no more than a noisy clanging bell. I may have the gift of inspired preaching; I may have the knowledge and understanding of all secrets;

I may have the faith needed to move mountains, but if I have no love, I am nothing, I may give away everything I have, and even give up my own body to be burned, but if I have no love, this does me no good. Love is patient, love is kind; love is not jealous, love does not brag; love is not proud, love is not rude, love is not selfish, love does not become angry easily, love does not remember wrongs done against it. Love always trusts, love always hopes, and continues strong. Love is hope.

## SERMON

The Very Rev Matt Thompson

*Dean of Birmingham*

## THE CREED

Thank you so much Matt for what you just shared. Well if you're at home, or watching online somewhere, can I encourage you to stand. We're going to say our creed together as we declare our faith in the God who loves us and who in his very being is love in action.

Let's say this together.

**All** I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## VISION FOR EDUCATION

*Sarah Smith, Director of Education, Birmingham Diocese*

Well we're going to be hearing now from Sarah Smith who is the Director of Education in Birmingham Diocese, about her vision for education in our area and some exciting news about a new school that's being set up in our area. This will be followed by the children of St. Thomas' leading us in our prayers of intercession. Onto you Sarah.

*Hi, I'm here in the site of Christchurch, Church of England secondary academy. We're in the middle of building a free school due to open in September 2021. It's exciting times here in the Church of England Birmingham, our vision is to be able to offer excellence, education for everyone everywhere. We're a small Diocese with 51 schools, spread over our region. Most of those are primary, we only have two secondaries, which is why we put in the application for this one. If we want to live up to our claim for education everywhere, we definitely need more secondary provision. So here we are today. We want to develop schools that are about human flourishing, yes to academic success, but also learning how to use that with wisdom. How we use our skills, how we treat others with dignity, how we give hope for the future and the whole idea of being part of what a community looks like. This school, here in Yardley Wood, Birmingham, is about serving this local area. We welcome all, whatever their belief background. We believe the Church has something to offer the education system and we embrace the opportunity to be able to establish a new secondary school. We would love everyone across the Diocese to have the chance to attend a church school should they want to. And so we're going to be looking for other opportunities to expand if we get the chance.*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Pupils of St Thomas' School*

## THE COLLECT

God of wisdom and might,  
we praise you for the wonder of our being,  
for mind, body and spirit.  
Be with our children as they begin a new school year.  
Bless them and their teachers and governors.  
Grant them strength and grace as their bodies grow,  
wisdom and knowledge for their minds  
as they search for understanding,  
and peace and hope for their hearts.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

And as our saviour taught us, so we pray:

**All** Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.

Well we're going to have our final song of worship led by Nick and Becky Drake who I work with at Gas Street Church. It's an all age song, so I encourage everybody to get stuck in and involved. Let's worship God now.

## **SONG**

City on a Hill

*Performed by Nick and Becky Drake*

I am a city on a hill  
I am a light in the darkness  
Jesus living in me can change the world

La la la la la  
La la la la la  
La la la la la  
La la la la la

I am a city on a hill  
I am a light in the darkness  
Jesus living in me can change the world

I am a city on a hill  
I am a light in the darkness  
Jesus living in me can change the world

Let my light shine, let my light shine, let my light shine  
Let my light shine, let my light shine, let my light shine  
If God is for me, who can stand against me?  
Let my light shine, let my light shine, let my light shine

La la la la la  
La la la la la  
La la la la la  
La la la la la

I am a city on a hill  
I am a light in the darkness  
Jesus living in me can change the world  
I am a city on a hill  
I am a light in the darkness  
Jesus living in me can change the world

Let my light shine, let my light shine, let my light shine, let it shine!  
Let my light shine, let my light shine, let my light shine  
If God is for me, who can stand against me?  
Let my light shine, let my light shine, let my light shine  
If God is for me, who can stand against me?  
Let my light shine, let my light shine, let my light shine

We are a city on a hill  
We are a light in the darkness  
Jesus living in us can change the world  
We are a city on a hill  
We are a light in the darkness  
Jesus living in us can change the world.

Let your light shine, let your light shine, let your light shine, let it shine!  
Let your light shine, let your light shine, let your light shine,  
If God is for us, who can stand against us?  
Let your light shine, let your light shine, let your light shine, let it shine,  
If God is for us, who can stand against us?  
Let your light shine, let your light shine, let your light shine.

I will shine for you  
Burning bright  
With your life, forever

I will shine for you  
Burning bright  
With your life.

I will shine for you  
Burning bright  
With your life.

I will shine for you  
Burning bright  
With your life.

*Words and Music: Nick and Becky Drake  
Tune: City on a Hill*

## **BLESSING AND DISMISSAL**

Thank you so much for joining us to worship on Church of England online. As we go from here, let's live out God's love in action.

As we do that, let me pray this prayer of blessing over you:

The Lord bless you, and keep you, the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord turn his face towards you and give you peace. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always. Amen.

Have a wonderful week!

## **SONG**

Looking to the Rainbow

*Various CE Schools from around the UK*

We used to be together each day  
Working in our classrooms and then going out to play  
We used to meet to sing and to pray  
And gathered for assembly to kick off the day  
But now the new rule  
Means school's changed  
We don't know when we'll meet again.

*But even though we're in lockdown  
We won't be knocked down  
'Cause we're still a family  
And we're looking to the rainbow  
Because we all know  
There is hope for you and me  
A new day will come!  
'Cause we're still a family  
A new day will come!  
There is hope for you and me.*



We're getting used to learning online  
And talking to our friends on WhatsApp and on FaceTime  
Even though we are missing PE  
There are lots of coaches training us on TV  
But now the new rule  
Means school's changed  
We don't know when we'll meet again.  
*But even though we're in lockdown  
We won't be knocked down  
Cos we're still a family  
And we're looking to the rainbow  
Because we all know  
There is hope for you and me.*

*But even though we're in lockdown  
We won't be knocked down  
Cos we're still a family  
And we're looking to the rainbow  
Because we all know  
There is hope for you and me  
A new day will come!  
Cos we're still a family  
A new day will come!  
There is hope for you and me  
A new day will come!*

*Words and Music: Becky Drake*

---

## **Acknowledgements**

With thanks to Rev Matt Batemen, St Luke's, Gas Street, The Very Rev Matt Thompson, the Dean of Birmingham, and the children and staff of St Thomas CE Academy.

British Sign Language Interpretation provided by Naomi Barry.

Music performed by Nick and Becky Drake, St Martin's voices, directed by Andrew Earis, with Ben Giddens (organ).

Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England, Pastoral Services and Times and Seasons, material from which is included in this service, are copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2000, 2005 and 2006.

Texts of copyright hymns and songs are reproduced under the terms of CCL licence 1363240 and MRL licence 1363257, Calamus Licence number 10445, or One License 733232-A.

New Patterns for Worship, material from which is included in this service, is copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2002.