**Salendine Nook Baptist Church – Church In Transition**

**Sunday 20th June 2021 – Love With No Limits**

**Welcome**

Welcome to **Church in Transition.**

We are now back worshipping at Church in our In - Person services. We have decided that for the foreseeable future we will be continuing with our flexible worship patterns which will still blends on - line services, home deliveries and E - mailed copies of Church in Transition.

Today’s service will be looking at: **1 John 4 v. 7 - 21**

The theme for today’s service is: **Love With No Limits**

Today’s service that is set out in this edition of **Church In Transition** includes **Communion.**

If you are still following us on the Church Website then please have your Communion ready with you

in order to share at the appropriate time.We hope that you will be able to engage with what has been produced for our **Sunday Service** and that you would indeed **Know The Everlasting Love of God And Love For One Another** **in your life today.**

**Call To Worship**

**Psalm 100 v. 1 - 5 NLT**

Shout for joy to the Lord, O earth!

Worship the Lord with gladness.

Come before him, singing with joy.

Acknowledge that the Lord is God!

He made us, and we are his.

We are his people, the sheep of

His pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving;

go into his courts with praise.

Give thanks to him and bless his name.

For the Lord is good.

His unfailing love continues forever,

And his faithfulness continues to

each generation.

**Moment of Reflection**

There is no place that you can go where God’s love isn’t. You’ll *never* be separated from God’s love.

**Song Suggestion**

All I Once Held Dear

**Moment of Reflection**

Beloved, let us love on another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. **1 John 4 v. 7 - 8**

**Opening Prayer**

Father God thank you that you have brought each of us safely to this place this day. We gladly surrender our lives to you heavenly Father, in worship and praise this day.

We gladly invite Your Holy Spirit to move freely amongst us. Come dwell in each of our hearts. Equip us, challenge us, comfort us, teach us. As we read your word in Scripture today, inspire us as we learn more about your majestic ways. Father, as we meet now may we behold Your beauty and encounter your grace and love. We ask all this in the wonderful name of Jesus.

Thank you that today we dwell in your kingdom and live in your presence and love. Thank you that as we gather together we join with all Christians across the world to glorify your holy name. Come be with us, inspire us and lead us in our time together today.

Loving Lord Jesus, as we gather here we thank you for fellowship and friendship. We ask that you will strengthen us, restore us and inspire us with your love. Lord, would you fill us with your peace so that as we journey onwards we would pour out your love and grace to others.

Loving Lord Jesus, in the security of this moment, we confess to you that we have often failed to live up to the reasonable expectations that you require of us. In the name of Jesus who welcomed sinners and lifted up the downcast, we ask you to forgive us for what we have done and what we have made of ourselves.

Today we celebrate your great love for us Lord. Today we celebrate Your mighty power, may we rest in Your presence bathe in Your goodness and celebrate your eternal life this day and always.

Refresh our faith we pray, in your willingness to accept us, help us enjoy our standing as your much loved children, and enable us to live lives in which you can take delight today, we pray.

We ask these prayers as we come to you this day, in the precious and glorious name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

**Amen**

**Bible Reading**

**1 John 4 v. 7 – 21 New International Version**

**God’s Love and Ours**

7Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

13This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. 14And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world. 15If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. 16And 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. 17This 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. 18There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

19We love because he first loved us. 20Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. 21And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

**Moment of Reflection**

Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. **1 John 4 v.8**

**Song Suggestion**

As The Deer Pants For The Water

**Communion**

Today is a Sunday when we would normally share communion together. We come together today remembering the love and sacrifice that Jesus made on the Cross for our sins and for our forgiveness. We gather together here in Church or at home as the body of Christ in order to share the bread and the cup together.

We are able do this by getting a small glass of red juice (*fruit juice, squash etc*.) and a small piece of bread and ‘sharing these elements’ at a time that is convenient to you.

(*Normally as a church we will do this during the service at about 11.30am.*)

Our normal practice is to say these words:

For I received from the Lord what I pass on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, (*you might like to pray at this point*) he broke it and said, ‘This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.’ (*this is the time to eat the bread*). In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.’ (*now is the time to drink the cup*). For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

*1 Corinthians 11 v. 22 - 26*

If you would like to do this today with us, if you are at home, then please do so, and may the Lord’s richest blessings be with you today.

**The Lord’s Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven,

Hallowed be Thy name,

Thy kingdom come,

Thy will be done,

On Earth as it is Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

And forgive us our trespasses,

As we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

But deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

The power, and the glory,

For ever and ever.

**Amen**

**Offerings**

Now that we find ourselves once again holding In - Person services in Church, we are able to give of our finances to the work of the Lord when we are in church.

However, if you feel that you are not ready to return to In - Person services yet, please keep on giving with a cheerful and grateful heart, praising God for all that he has given to you until the time arises when you feel that you can physically meet with us again and share in the finances of the church.

**Song Suggestion**

My Jesus, My Saviour

**Church In Transition Thought**

All true love has its origin in God because love is the essence of God’s nature. Love is the one word that totally sums up God’s being. True love we are told, comes from God (**1 John 4 v. 7**), simply because, ‘God is love’ (**1 John 4 v. 16**). To find God is to discover what true love is all about.

God sent his Son into the world (**1 John 4 v. 9**), and from him we learn that his love, is sacrificial in that Christ died (**1 John 4 v. 10**), and it is beneficial in that it was ‘for our sins’ (1 John 4 v. 10).

We may know (**experience**) the love of God. Notice that love ‘comes’ from God (**1 John 4 v. 7**). This happens essentially when we are born of God and receive new life from him (**1 John 4 v. 16**). When God comes into a person’s life he brings himself; i.e. he doesn’t bring a selection of his virtues but all of them, including his love, because they are essential to his being. Key to all of this is **1 John 4 v. 17a** but it is apparent throughout. Our love should be both sacrificial and beneficial (**1 John 4 v. 16**).

John begins with his aim, which is, that we should learn to love one another. He then unfolds the teaching.

Note the progression:

**THE COMPREHENSION OF LOVE**

We are told in **1 John 4 v. 7 – 12** that our heavenly Father loves us so much that he sent his Son to save us; as we grow to be more like him, we also grow in our ability to love one another with a sacrificial love. Many of us feel our spiritual renewal would be greatly accelerated if only we could see God. But no one has seen God the Father; he is seen through his people when they love one another. That is why it is so important for us to restore relationships with the people we have harmed. That is also why we need the fellowship of believers – because we need the love that they offer.

This type of love is not the shallow, self - gratifying sensuality common today and regularly shown on TV, but the pure and majestic nature of God; his person, actions and thoughts.

**THE REVELATION OF LOVE**

When we look at **1 John 4 v. 13 – 15** we see that the assurance of this love comes from believing that Jesus is the Son of God, because that ability to believe is proof that God himself, through the Holy spirit, is living in us. Confession of Christ is both the evidence and the expression of a genuine faith and love for God. It is more than intellectual belief; our confession of Christ must lead us to a confession of sin and a commitment to live for God. We do this as we take responsibility for our lives and deal with past failures and broken relationships in the true meaning of what it is to love, as Christ first loved us.

Jesus said, ‘Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father’ (**John 14 v. 9**). Jesus is the personification of the Father, therefore he is also the personification of the Father’s love. This we are told is brought out in the personality of Christ: his kindness, mercy, gentleness, strength of character etc.

**THE REFLECTION AND RESULT OF LOVE**

**1 John 4 v. 7 – 21** is a passage that abounds in the richness and loving mercy of God, found in Jesus, that is exercised through our loving of each other as brothers and sisters together in Jesus Christ. **1 John 4 v. 16 – 21** tells us that John once again spoke about the importance of love. True Christianity is characterized by loving relationships in which there is no fear. Experiencing such relationships – first with God, then with other believers – is at the heart of our spiritual renewal. We can and should trust God wholly, without fear, because our punishment for sin has already taken place in Christ. Therefore, where love reigns, we can be transparent with fellow believers, trusting that our honesty will not be used to hurt us. Mature Christian love delights in helping others, and it creates an environment in which we can develop accountability and a new sense of responsibility towards ourselves and towards others.

Here we come back to John’s aim, and it is the imperative that is brought out in **1 John 4 v. 11**: ‘**We also ought to love one another.**’ It comes with the force of a command to give attention to these things.

How might our church then be able to reflect that kind of love that we see reflected in this passage in more practical and more obvious ways?

**Prayers of Intercession**

Give us strength of purpose and faith in you today we pray, in order to take decisions seriously, to understand the consequences of our actions for others, as well as ourselves, and, always, to seek your guidance through prayer.

We are reminded today, Loving Lord, of our responsibilities as your people to follow instructions and laws in order to be good disciples. When we hear and watch the news, we can see and are reminded that times are difficult for many, including ourselves and others, like businesses and hospitality as we long for what we consider normal times, help us to protect others and ourselves so, that one day we may be able to return to a more normalised way of living both here in the church building in order to worship and sing our praises to you once again. Help us to remember that the church is not the building, the Church is the people. Help us Lord to work together as your people to stay connected with each other and with you through these ongoing difficult and challenging times.

We think and pray for those who are homeless, the unemployed, the asylum seeker and those in greatest need. Lord Jesus be with those who find themselves lost and alone in society. Support all those who work and volunteer in society to bring hope to these people.

We pray for our families and friends. Lord we all face the normal ups and downs of life in many different ways. We thank you that Jesus knows our every situation. Help us we pray to face the different situations we face with dignity courage and love.

We pray today for the world - wide church and we pray especially for the local churches here in Huddersfield and for our own church family here at Salendine Nook. We pray for all who minister to the community in whatever way and in whatever role, may you guide and support them in all that they do.

We continue to pray for the sick, both at home and in hospital, or hospice. We think of the elderly, the housebound and those in care homes who may be known to us personally. We pray for all those who care for their needs, both professionally and in the family. So again, as we share a moment of silence together, we bring before you those known only to ourselves and name them before you, Lord Jesus, in our hearts.

And finally, Lord we pray for ourselves. Help us Lord to follow your example in all that we do and say as we journey with you. We place ourselves, this Church and all your people into your loving care. Please accept these our prayers, in Jesus name.

Amen

**Moment of Reflection**

When God’s love hits your heart, it changes you.

**Song Suggestion**

The Lord’s my Shepherd

**Blessing**

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work among us, to him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!

Ephesians 3 v. 20, 21

Amen