

Thursday Prayers – 15th May 2025

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85209298628?pwd=VDTrciGq12BVz8luyEa34M6BRLZDIK.1>

Meeting ID: 852 0929 8628 Passcode 080127

Today's Prayer

"Support us in our physical journey and help us to be examples of Faith and Integrity May others be drawn to you through our words and actions as we follow your example" Amen

Prayer

Gracious God, from love we are made and to love we shall return. May our love for one another kindle flames of joy and hope. May the light and warmth of your grace inspire us to follow the way of Jesus Christ and serve you in your Kingdom, now and for ever. Amen

Our Focus today is, "A New Commandment" John 13 vs 31-35

"When he had gone out Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man is glorified and in him God is glorified."

"My children I am to be with you a little longer, then you will look for me and as I told the Jews I tell you now, where I am going you cannot come. I give you a **New Commandment**, love one another as I have loved you, so you are to love one another. If there is this love among you, then everyone will know that you are my disciples".

The old commandment from Leviticus is to love our neighbours as our self. The new commandment from Jesus is to love even those who are not our neighbours. Tax collectors, Samaritans, prostitutes, the poor. Jesus loved lepers for example. He loved Peter who denied knowing him. He loved Judas who betrayed him, He loved Thomas who doubted him. He loved those who abandoned him and even those who crucified him. He considered them all his neighbours.

Our neighbour is anyone and everyone we have an opportunity to love. All deserving of our love, all loved by God. Jesus loved **unconditionally**. He teaches us to do the same.

It is important to remember exactly when and where Jesus was when he said these things. Sometimes when and where we say something is as important to the meaning, as what we say. And that is true of John 13.

It was Maundy Thursday and on that night Jesus celebrated the Last Supper with his disciples in the Upper Room and finally went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray and prepare for the ordeal that was to come, He prayed "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup of suffering pass from me" This expresses Jesus' human struggle with the upcoming suffering and death, while acknowledging the possibility of the suffering being avoided, He was actively betrayed by Judas and abandoned by his other disciples, arrested and he ultimately submits to God's will. He was then taken before the Jewish authorities for a preliminary hearing and harsh abuse, which led up to his Roman trial and execution the

next day. At the Last Supper Jesus instituted the ordinance of the sacrament using the bread and wine already on the table, as a means for us to regularly remember and accept this saving sacrifice.

Jesus is there, in the Upper Room with all his Disciples Thomas who will doubt the resurrection, Peter who will deny knowing him after he is arrested and Judas who will betray him and hand him over to those wanting to kill him. After being betrayed abandoned, denied, misjudged and abused Jesus then carried this weight alone on the cross. And Jesus knowing all that is to come takes the role of a servant and washes the feet of all the Disciples. If you want a picture of love picture Jesus on his knees washing the feet of his betrayer Judas, knowing all that he knew. That is love. And Jesus tells us this is what we need to do for each other. "Love one another as he has loved us."

He says, "I give you a **new commandment** that you love one another just as I have loved you". We might wonder what is NEW about it.? The commandment to love was not new of course. It is mentioned often in the Old Testament. The new part of this is that we are commanded to love one another just as Jesus has loved us and that means loving those who doubt us and deny knowing us and even those who betray us. Because that's what Jesus did for us. He loved us and loves us, even when we doubt, deny, or betray him.

We have to try to love without expectation, not to mind feeling vulnerable and to love those who are not like us. As the new commandment from Jesus tells us to love even those who are not our neighbours.

Jesus did not say it would be easy, but it is certainly possible, otherwise he would not have commanded it. And it is exactly what he did. He is not asking us to do something he has not done already and done perfectly.

So let us pray for all persons in the World that they love one another until there is peace and everyone knows the love of Jesus. What a wonderful world that would be.

To the Glory of God, Amen

Prayer

Lord, let us serve your world with love and kindness as we follow the example of Christ. Help us to love unconditionally. To refrain from needless expectations: To be generous in acceptance: to be selfless in support: as Christ has loved and forgiven us. Gracious Lord, show us the way to serve one another with love and kindness. May we place the needs of our neighbours above our own as we mirror the example of Christ. Amen

Monthly Prayer

Lord as we gather in prayer across the world, we remember your plan of salvation where there are no barriers to hear the good news of Jesus Christ. Come Holy Spirit as we pray "Thy Kingdom Come". Father, we pray that it will bring us closer within our worldwide family of Mothers' Union so that "Thy Kingdom Come" resounds around the corner and across the World. Amen

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 in Heaven,
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses,
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**

Intercessions

In our Intercessions today we pray for the Worldwide work of the Mothers' Union, our worldwide president Kathleen Snow and our Chief Executive Bev Julian and all who work at Mary Sumner house. Also our Province of Canterbury and its members and our new Provincial Present Comfort Fearon.

We pray for our Diocesan leaders, Jean, Debbie and Hazel and our Branch Leaders and their members throughout the Diocese.

Also all members of our Clergy..

We thank you for the members in our branches and the common concern for marriage and family life which binds us together. We pray that we will continue to enjoy each other's friendship, to work together in love and to encourage each other with the hope of Jesus Christ. We give thanks for the world and its beauty, and we remember before you those close to us who are ill or unwell and need our prayers.

Pause,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,

We pray for all who are suffering from natural disasters, war, and famine caused particularly by climate change. The people of Jerusalem and the Middle East, Ukraine, Sudan and Myanmar and all conflicts around the world. As turmoil is so widespread we ask for your help for all those who are suffering. Particularly the children and young people and may all nations lay aside the ways of darkness and put on the armour of light.

We pray for our worldwide links, Lusaka in Zambia, Shyogwe in Rwanda, Sokoto and Ikka in Nigeria, Karimnagar in India plus the diocesan links with Kigali and Vellore.

In our Wave of Prayer we pray for Maridi in South Sudan, Karinyaga in Kenya and Zaki-Biam and Ijesa in N.E. Nigeria and Waikato and Taranaki in New Zealand.

For our many Blessings

Mothers' Union Prayer

Lord, we thank you for your love so freely given to us all. We pray for families around the World. Bless the work of the Mothers' Union as we seek to share your love through the encouragement, strengthening and support of marriage and family life. Empowered by your Spirit may we be united in prayer and worship and in love and service reach out as your hands across the world in Jesus' name. AMEN

Hymn : Love Divine

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

Breathe oh breathe thy loving spirit
 Into every troubled breast
 Let us all in thee inherit
 Let us find thy promised rest.
 Take away our love of sinning;
 Alpha and Omega be;
 End of faith as its beginning,
 Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver;
 Let us all thy grace receive;
 Suddenly return and never,
 Never more thy temples leave.
 Thee we would be always blessing,
 Serve thee as thy host 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!

Author Charles Wesley 1707 – 1788

Thursday Prayer: Heavenly Father, you have called us apart to share in the worldwide fellowship of Christians united in Prayer. Take our Prayers we humbly ask, fill them with your love and power and use them in the causes of your glorious kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Grace: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the Love of God and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.