

PRAYERS

Searching God, to you no-one is lost, no-one is left behind, no-one is the price to be paid for the greater good. Give us the same restless desire, the same fierce joy, which finds grace in every child of the earth, and makes a community open to all.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, who loved the world and did not count the cost.

Amen

Jesus, open our eyes to see people around us more clearly. Teach us to love them the way that you love them. Make us quick to see what is beautiful, and slow to see what is ugly. And help us to put into practice in our own lives the good that we see in others.

Amen

BLESSING

CLOSING MUSIC

Please feel free to leave when you feel ready – or stay to the end.

Please take this sheet home with you.

If you would like to be part of the Reflections team – please let one of us know.

The next Reflections will be on Sunday 2 March, with the theme 'Being Alone'

Music covered by the Christian Copyright Licensing is reproduced under CCLI Licence 206243

The Parish Church of St Andrew &
St Cuthman, Steyning

Reflections

Sunday 2 February

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR SEEING CHRIST IN OTHERS



MUSIC ON ENTRANCE

Copland: Clarinet Concerto, opening

INTRODUCTION

POEM

Second Commandment

Love your neighbour as yourself.
The trouble is, we do.
And since we do not always love ourselves,
Our neighbour suffers from our handicap.
Strange feelings come from depths we don't
Control, causing us to react, and not respond.

How can we learn to love our dark unknown,
Embrace, accept, forgive what lies within?

Can we believe it is already done?
We are profoundly loved, both in our depths
And to the limit of his love, which has no end.
A starting place, with time and then eternity
To learn its truth. And, in the meantime,
What a blessing for our neighbour, to be
Loved as we (are learning to) love ourselves.

Ann Lewin

I John 4:7-12 - Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

MUSIC INTO SILENCE A New Commandment

A new commandment I give unto you
That you love one another as I have loved you.
By this shall all know that you are my
disciples,
If you have love one for another.
(anon), sung by Jessica di Bartalo

PERIOD OF SILENT REFLECTION
(12-15 minutes) Please feel free to move
around the church, if you wish, to reflect
and pray.

MUSIC OUT OF SILENCE A New Commandment (keyboard)

MEDITATION ON BIBLE VERSES

Genesis 1:27 - So God created human
beings, making them to be like himself.

John 13:34 - I give you a new
commandment: love one another; as I have
loved you, so you are to love one another.

Ephesians 4:32 - Be kind and tender-
hearted to one another, and forgive one
another as God has forgiven you through
Christ.

Hebrews 13:2 Do not neglect to show
hospitality to strangers, for thereby some
have entertained angels unawares.

Colossians 3:11 - Here there is not Greek
and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised,
barbarian, Scythian, slave or free; but Christ
is all, and is in all.

We are many,
God's great diversity,
All: yet we are one in Christ.

Different faces,
different races,
All: yet we are one in Christ.

Butchers, bakers,
website makers,
bankers, tailors,
teachers, sailors,
different races,
All: yet we are one in Christ.
Fathers, mothers,
sisters, brothers,
single, married,
broken, carried,
different races,
All: yet we are one in Christ.

The happy, the clappy,
the barely out of nappies,
the ancient, the modern,
the famous, the forgotten,
different races,
All: yet we are one in Christ.

Some hopeful, some hopeless,
some cope well, some cope less.
Some sure and some doubt,
some whisper, some shout,
different races,
All: yet we are one in Christ.

Those with abundance,
those with need,
those who are generous
or wrestle with greed,
different races,
All: yet we are one in Christ.

A broken body,
torn apart,
mars God's image,
breaks God's heart.
different races,
All: Let us be one in Christ.