

We have barely scratched the surface
Of your death-defying love
Every breath I have is worth it
A thousand songs are not enough.

Chorus

For the stars at night
Every sunset sky
For it all, oh God, I say "I love you"
For the world you made
Every brand new day
For it all, oh God, I say "I love you".

For the cross you bore
Every nail and thorn
For it all, oh God, I say, "I love you"
All I have inside
Heart, soul, and mind
For it all, oh God, I say, "I love you"
For it all, oh God, I say, "I love you"
For it all, oh God.

Chorus

Yes I am
Falling in love, falling in love with you
Falling in love, falling in love with you

*Jonathan Lindley Smith / Phil Wickham /
Sean Curran / Melodie Malone
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Music*

*If you would like to be part of our
Reflections team, helping us to put
together the service and/or deliver it,
please speak to any one of the team.*

*Please feel free to take this service sheet
away with you after the service.*

*The Parish Church of
St Andrew
and St Cuthman,
Steyning*

REFLECTIONS

4 February 2024

***A quiet contemplative service
lasting about 40 minutes***



Love is Everything

God's love transcends all faiths

Through Love

By Armand Amar (b1953), inspired by the work of 13th century Islamic scholar and Sufi mystic Rumi

Welcome and introduction

Reading - Poem

Love never dies

Be still

How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.
I love thee to the depth and breadth and height
My soul can reach, when feeling out of sight
For the ends of being and ideal grace.
I love thee to the level of every day's
Most quiet need, by sun and candle-light.
I love thee freely, as men strive for right.
I love thee purely, as they turn from praise.
I love thee with the passion put to use
In my old griefs, and with my childhood's faith.
I love thee with a love I seemed to lose
With my lost saints. I love thee with the breath,
Smiles, tears, of all my life; and, if God choose,
I shall but love thee better after death.

*Sonnet 43, Elizabeth Barrett Browning
(1806-1861)
(Public domain)*

God loves all

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.

All **Amen.**

For the gift of love, God of wonder and
of joy: grace comes from you, and
you alone are the source of life and
love. Without you, we cannot please
you; without your love, our deeds are
worth nothing. Send your Holy Spirit,
and pour into our hearts that most
excellent gift of love, that we may
worship you now with thankful
hearts and serve you always with
willing minds; through Jesus Christ
our Lord.

All **Amen**

Blessing

Closing music

God's love for the Earth

Falling in Love

(Phil Wickham)

So much beauty to discover
I can hardly take it in
I will ever stand in wonder
Of a grace that never ends.

Chorus

*The more I praise you
The more I want to
I'm falling in love, falling in love with you
I lay my life down
God, I am yours now
I'm falling in love, falling in love with you.*

God's love overcomes sadness

The love of God

Like a cradle rocking, rocking,
 Silent, peaceful to and fro,
 Like a mother's sweet looks dropping
 On the little face below, –
 Hangs the green earth, swinging,
 turning,
 Jarless, noiseless, safe and slow;
 Falls the light of God's face bending
 Down, and watching us below.

And as feeble babes that suffer,
 Toss and cry, and will not rest.
 Are the ones the tender mother
 Holds the closest, loves the best.
 So when we are weak and wretched,
 By our sins weighed down, distressed,
 Then it is that God's great patience
 Holds us closest, loves us best.

O great heart of God! whose loving
 Cannot hindered be nor crossed;
 Will not weary, will not even
 In our death itself be lost, –
 Love divine! of such great loving
 Only mothers know the cost, –
 Cost of love, which, all love passing,
 Gave a Son to save the lost.

Helen Hunt Jackson (1830-1885),

*Jackson wrote this poem under the pseudonym
 Saxe Holm. Jackson was a US poet and
 supporter of persecuted minorities, who lost her
 two children at the ages of one and nine*

God is Love

1 John 4:7-12

Beloved, let us love one another,
 because love is from God; everyone
 who loves is born of God and knows
 God. Whoever does not love does not
 know God, for God is love. God's love
 was revealed among us in this way:
 God sent his only Son into the world
 so that we might live through him. In
 this is love, not that we loved God but
 that he loved us and sent his Son to be
 the atoning sacrifice for our sins.
 Beloved, since God loved us so much,
 we also ought to love one another. No
 one has ever seen God; if we love one
 another, God lives in us, and his love is
 perfected in us.

Music into silence

Love lasts forever

I could sing of your love forever

By Delirious?

Over the mountains and the sea
 Your river runs with love for me
 And I will open up my heart and let
 the healer set me free
 I'm happy to be in the truth
 And I will daily lift my hands
 For I will always sing of when your
 love came down

(Repeat verse)

Chorus

*I could sing of your love forever
 I could sing of your love forever
 I could sing of your love forever
 I could sing of your love forever*

Oh, I feel like dancing
It's foolishness I know, yes
But when the world has seen the light
They will dance with joy like we're
dancing now

Chorus x3

© Martin Smith, Curious Music UK

Delirious? (the question mark is part of the name) were a Christian worship band, originally from Littlehampton. Martin Smith, the lead vocalist, wrote this song and several other well-known modern hymns and worship songs. Since the band ceased in 2009, individual members have continued in their Christian mission, including at the Big Church Day Out festival at Wiston Park

Reflective Silence

(We will keep a period of silence for 12-15 minutes, please feel free to find your own quiet place within the church)

Music out of Silence

Love is everything

Love divine, all loves excelling
(Sung by Whitney Maslak)

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.

Come, Almighty to deliver;
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return and never,
nevermore 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.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Meditation on Bible verses

Love for each other

I Peter 4:8 Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins.

Psalms 107:8-9 Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind. For he satisfies the thirsty, and the hungry he fills with good things.

Ephesians 4:2-3 With all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Matthew 25:35-36 For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.

Zephaniah 3:17 The Lord your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.