

Please do not feel the need to wait until the concluding music has finished before leaving.

Please leave quietly.

If you would like someone to pray privately with you, please walk round to one of the side aisles.

Please take this sheet home with you.

Please join us for our next Reflections on 1 March at 6pm, which will have a Lent-based theme.

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

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Reflections

*A quiet contemplative service
lasting about 40 minutes*



God's Unconditional Love

**Sunday 1 February
6pm**

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

REFLECTIONS

Sunday 1 February

GOD'S UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

ENTRY MUSIC

Piano music will be played prior to the service.

MUSIC

Ubi Caritas

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est;
congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.
Exultemus et in ipso jucundemur,
timeamus et amemus Deum vivum;
et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.
Amen

*Where charity and love are, there God is.
The love of Christ has gathered us together.
Let us rejoice and be glad in him,
let us fear and love the living God,
and love one other with a sincere heart.*

*Maurice Durufle (1902-1986)
Performed by the choir of King's College,
Cambridge. Conductor Stephen Cleobury*

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

BIBLE READING

Parable of the Prodigal Son

Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and

BLESSING

CLOSING MUSIC

I Stand Amazed

I stand amazed in the presence
Of Jesus the Nazarene,
And wonder how he could love me,
A sinner, condemned, unclean.

*How marvellous! How wonderful!
And my song shall ever be:
How marvellous! How wonderful!
Is my Saviour's love for me!*

He took my sins and my sorrows,
He made them his very own;
He bore the burden to Calvary,
And suffered and died alone.

*How marvellous! How wonderful!
And my song shall ever be:
How marvellous! How wonderful!
Is my Saviour's love for me!*

When with the ransomed in glory
His face I at last shall see,
'twill be my joy through the ages
To sing of his love for me.

*How marvellous! How wonderful!
And my song shall ever be:
How marvellous! How wonderful!
Is my Saviour's love for me!*

*Charles H Gabriel (1856-1932)
Performed by Norton Hall Band*

Romans 8: 37-39 - For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (NRSV)

I John 4:16 - So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. (NRSV)

Romans 5:8 - But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (NLT)

John 3:16 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (NIV)

PRAYERS

Lord, you love me completely,
Even as I struggle to love myself.
When I struggle to accept that I am lovable,

When I would rather be anyone else,
When I let the voice of self-criticism
Speak harsh hurtful words;
You cherish me as your beloved

All: **Help me to accept the love you have for me,
And in knowing your faithful love,
May it transform my heart
That I may be known by love.**

Father God, the width, length, height,
and depth of your love is beyond our
knowledge and understanding.
I pray for the power to grasp how
much you love me and the whole
world.

Thank you for the revelation of your
love to the depth of my heart.
Lord, please help me love others as
you have loved me.

All: **Amen**

hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate. Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.' The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!' 'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' "

Luke 15:11-32 (NIV)

READING

God's Love for Us

The love of God most high for our soul is so wonderful that it surpasses all knowledge.

No created being can fully know the greatness, the sweetness, the tenderness, of the love that our maker has for us.

By his grace and help therefore let us in spirit stand in awe and gaze, eternally, marvelling at the supreme, surpassing, single-minded, incalculable love that God,

Who is all goodness, has for us.

*From Revelations of Divine Love,
Mother Julian of Norwich (1342-1416)*

MUSIC INTO REFLECTION

God So Loved the World (Stainer Crucifixion)

God so loved the world,
God so loved the world,
that he gave his only begotten son,
that whoso believeth, believeth in him
should not perish, should not perish
but have everlasting life.
For God sent not his son into the world
to condemn the world.
God sent not his son into the world
to condemn the world;
But that the world through him might be
saved.
God so loved the world.
God so loved the world,
that he gave his only begotten son,
that whoso believeth, believeth in him
should not perish, should not perish
but have everlasting life, everlasting life,
everlasting, everlasting life.
God so loved the world.
God so loved the world.
God so loved the world.

*From 'The Crucifixion' by John Stainer
(1840-1901)*

Text by W J Sparrow Simpson (1859-1952)

*Performed by Tenebrae,
conducted by Nigel Short*

PERIOD OF SILENT REFLECTION (10-15 minutes)

Please feel free to move to different areas of the church, if you wish, to reflect and pray.

MUSIC OUT OF REFLECTION

How Deep the Father's Love for Us (Piano)

How deep the Father's love for us,
How vast beyond all measure,
That he should give his only son
To make a wretch his treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss –
The Father turns his face away,
As wounds which mar the chosen one
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross,
My sin upon his shoulders;
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held him there
Until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life –
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything,
No gifts, no power, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from his reward?
I cannot give an answer;
But this I know with all my heart –
His wounds have paid my ransom.

*by Stuart Townend (b1963)
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MEDITATION ON BIBLE VERSES

Psalm 42: 8 - Each day the Lord pours his unfailing love upon me, and through each night I sing his songs, praying to God who gives me life. (NLT)