



Sunday Worship Service

30 January 2022 (Epiphany 4)

Love doesn't happen overnight! We may know love doesn't come easy even sometimes it hurts us and beloved ones. However, we cannot stop loving somebody and asking to express how much we are loved. Four letters – L. O. V. E. when it forms the word LOVE, this is the most powerful language that we, human being ever have. You are a strong and mighty one if you have love in you this moment.

Jesus had the love of God in his words and deeds during his public ministry. His followers imitated what He demonstrated and many Christian communities including Boronia Park Uniting remind everyday of how important we live out the love in all God's creation and our neighbourhood – Love God and your neighbour. How does your love look like now? Do you really love someone and even God who created that love in us?

Call to Worship: We Have Come

We have come to worship God, the living God,

All: Who calls prophets and teachers to bear witness.

We have come to praise God, the almighty God,

All: Who answers the forces of hatred and hurt with the power of grace.

We have come to worship God, all-gracious God,

**All: Who chooses even you and me,
to receive and carry the Word of life and hope.**

All glory to God!

[Retrieved from www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org)

Opening Prayer: Faith, Hope and Love

And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three;
and the greatest of these is love. I Cor.13:13

God of gods:

We come to worship today to hear your good news,
to hear of faith, hope and love
ringing out from your kingdom.

We know that doubt, fear and hatred
can shake even the strongest.

Shape us into faithful hopeful people,
fill us with your love that passes all understanding.

We pray this together in the name of Jesus Christ, **Amen.**

[Attributed to Carol Penner](#)

Song: The Lord Is My Shepherd (TIS 659)

The Lord is my shepherd, and I want to follow
wherever he leads me, wherever he goes.
Over the mountains, the waters and byways,
valleys and highways he's waiting for us.

*I want to go to meet him there, to lay myself down in his love.
The Lord is my shepherd and I want to follow
wherever he leads me, wherever he goes.*

And while on the journey to where we are going
he promised to be there to help us along,
and over the mountains we'll walk on together,
to know all the wonders he's given to *us*.

I want to go to meet him there, ...

Brian Kerry Boniwell

Prayer of the Day

Lord,

Because love is patient...

**Help us to be slow to judge, but quick to listen,
hesitant to criticize, but eager to encourage,
remembering your endless patience with us.**

Because love is kind...

**Help our words to be gentle and our actions to be thoughtful.
Remind us to smile and to say "Please" and "Thank You"
because those little things still mean so much.**

Because love does not envy or boast, and it is not proud...

**Help us have a heart that is humble and sees the good in others.
May we celebrate and appreciate
all that we have and all that we are,
as well as doing the same for those around us.**

Because love is not rude or self-seeking...

**Help us to speak words that are easy
on the ear and on the heart.**

**When we're tempted to get wrapped up
in our own little world,
remind us there's a great big world out there
full of needs and hurts.**

Because love is not easily angered and keeps no record of wrongs...

**Help us to forgive others as you have forgiven us.
When we want to hold onto a grudge,
gently help us release it
so we can reach out with a hand of love instead.**

Because love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth...
**Help us stand up for what is right and good.
May we defend the defenseless, and help the helpless.
Show us how we can make a difference.**

Because love always protects and always trusts...
**Help us to be a refuge for those around us.
When the world outside is harsh and cold,
may our heart be a place of acceptance and warmth.**

Finally, because love always perseveres...
**Help our heart continually beat with love for You and others.
Thank you for showing us what the word love really means.
Amen.**

Attributed to Holley Gerth

Bible Reading: Jeremiah 1:4-8 and 1 Corinthians 13

First reading: Jeremiah 1:4-8 (English Standard Version)

The Call of Jeremiah

⁴ Now the word of the Lord came to me, saying,

⁵ “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

⁶ Then I said, “Ah, Lord God! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth.” ⁷ But the Lord said to me,

“Do not say, ‘I am only a youth’;
for to all to whom I send you, you shall go,
and whatever I command you, you shall speak.

⁸ Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you,
declares the Lord.”

Epistle reading: 1 Corinthians 13

The Way of Love

13 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸ Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. ¹² For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

¹³ So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Song: Without Love (We Have Nothing)

If we speak with the tongues of an angels
and have not love, we have nothing.
If we gain all the world and its knowledge,
and have not love, we have nothing.
If our faith is strong to move the mountains,
and if we give all we have to the poor,
And if we offer ourselves,
yet our heart never loves, we have nothing.
Without love, we have nothing.

Love is patient and kind.
Love isn't selfish or boastful.
Love doesn't seek out its own way,
but rejoices in the truth, in the truth.

Words based on 1 Corinthians 13
James Michael Stevens and Joseph M. Martin

Sermon Seung Jae Yeon

During my recent holiday, I made two daytrips to the Greater Sydney by myself. As a sole traveller, I planned whatever I wanted and went wherever I had never been to. I had a breakfast at Nepean River near Yarramunde Reserve and made some stops for sightseeing beautiful nature and all manmade gardens and buildings. I drove along the old mountain ways crossing over the railways and streams which run fresh water to the rivers. No disturb. No explanations. Only meditations on how great God made this nature for First Peoples who nurture them more than 30,000 years and then Second Peoples who have found and developed since January 1788. There are countless and timeless layers of God's creation story from the beginning. I am sure that we will never count them at all with our human knowledge and understanding that have been accumulated for some thousand years of human history.

One of my destinations was the town of Lithgow. An old coal mining town established by many brave men and women has multiple layers of human touches and their stories that tell their past, present, and tomorrow. My

journey toward the history of Lithgow started from the Post Office and then hotels, churches including Lithgow Uniting, the Public School, the Fire Station, the Theatre, the Court and the Station. Interestingly there are several murals, statues of famous people from the town, paintings and decorations that tell how Lithgow has lived its life, struggles and challenges and is preparing themselves for future journey. The town of Lithgow I visited in January 2022 has been layered by stories and attachments that many men and women, their friends and families and visitors and guests contributed many years. The flooding that happened just days before my visit added one more addition, which is a challenging one, to who they are – A history-full and lovely town of New South Wales for the residents and many people like me. I cannot tell you that I know Lithgow well. I just experienced a glimpse of township and its heritage with my own perspective. I can acknowledge that there have been huge manmade efforts to make it possible for Lithgow to live and sustain. Lithgow doesn't come overnight. And I would say that all of our human value and ethos doesn't come overnight too.

Apostle Paul of Christ Jesus concludes 1 Corinthians chapter 13 by scribing the Greek word *agape* which means love in English translation. In this chapter, as known as the chapter of love or the way of love, Paul points out that love is the greatest value that he would live for Christ and his church. He compares love to faith and hope which are also important in Christian life. Then his number one pick is love. To him, love is the beginning of all things, all missions, and his commitments to converting the Gentile to Christ. He changes his tone of language and smoothly writes down what he found in his mission trips (vv 4-7).

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

We may know well about this way of Paul to describe how love looks like in our human life. All great things – patience, kindness, gentleness, mildness, listening, justice, truth, endurance and perseverance are laid in love that Paul discovered. Maybe love is the hardest thing because each and every value that Paul uses to describe here doesn't come overnight. He had been through all hardship and persecution during his commitment to the good news of Jesus Christ. To me, for forty-seven years in life, I don't still have no idea how love really looks like and what model I live with and for love. Saying "I love you" is not love. Giving and exchanging different types of languages of love cannot replace the love God revealed fully in Christ Jesus, his one and only Son. Love is so deep. Love is vastly wide. Love doesn't come overnight. So we are reminded by apostle Paul that love is the greatest because we are laying a single piece of tiny love in our relationship with God and people next us each day, hoping that love comes nearer in God's presence.

I write my sermon every week except my holiday. In writing thousands of words, I find that it is hard. As a Korean migrant, whose language requires more time and effort for writing sentences, I always study and then wait until inspiration comes. There is always something I can do other than writing. I don't think I do list them here. The key to writing is prioritising and committing. That's all. I should commit to sit and begin my first word, first phrase and then first sentence. It doesn't have to be a good one. As a starter or an opener, it doesn't really matter. I am a writer, not a waiter. I have found that inspiration comes when I commit to writing. A sentence inspires next. I know I am not a best-selling writer. And I know I am a writer who hopes always that you may get knowing who God is for you and your family, and how much he loves you all this moment. The Main Plot I live and write today is love, the love that Jesus demonstrated during his ministry, on that cross, and from the empty tomb, and a love that we, Christ community at Boronia Park and wherever we are, are called to imitate and live today and until he comes.

So Paul says, "Love never ends." Because love has its multiple layers from the Beginning, the Creation. Love never ends because you and I are called

to live that love until the true Love comes. Please don't worry about fulfilling love that you hold. The key to love is prioritising and committing. Paul confesses that he journeys through all obstacles and challenges with love that he found in Christ even though he could see in a mirror dimly. And he has a vision that he would see the love of God in Christ Jesus face to face one day. He knows the love in part. He proclaims that he will know fully. Paul was writing about love and committed himself to that love he did all his best to discover. Even though he didn't fully understand how much God loved him, in love, he was patient and kind, gentle, mild, listening and trusting, just, endurance and perseverance, putting a layer of love a day given to him. He seemed to know love doesn't come overnight. Wherever or whoever he was with – prison cells, Roman courts, synagogues, public squares, Christian homes and wayfaring on roads, he lived the love of God for Christ and for the cities and towns he held in prayers. The same love that Paul lived and delivered is now with us. The same love is God. The LORD called Jeremiah, saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." Where God is, love is present. The love of God will never fail us because the love is there for us always. The LORD says to Jeremiah, "Don't be afraid ... I am with you." It speaks to us clearly that we don't need to be afraid because his love is with us always and way stronger than our fear. The Lord be with us. And the love of God with us.

Love is with us because God with us now. And love doesn't come overnight. This gap in our real life and faith is given to all of us today. So I may encourage you not to wait until it comes but to commit yourself to the love of God that Paul and Jeremiah discovered in the time that God dwelt in them. I pray that the love of God is with us all this day, your day is filled with love and your love will touch many lives as they search to find a transforming love that may answer all their questions and challenges in life. Love that you live today can change many lives. Because that love has changed us.

Amen.

Prayers of the People Robyn Harvey

Prayer is not meant to be an end in itself. Prayer is about connecting with the priorities and values of God. If it is immersing ourselves in a deep connection with God, so that we can live differently and help to manifest God's reign a little more in our world – then it definitely has immense value.

God of all creation, you have loved this our ancient land long before humans knew it existed or explored it. We thank you for the diversity of the country and its people. We are moved by its magnificent mountains, its verdant valleys and pastoral plains, for the riches of its mines and agricultural lands, and for the beauty of the forests, lakes and rivers.

We thank you for the first Australians who know and love this continent with an intimate and profound sensitivity. We acknowledge the courage and sacrifice of the early settlers and we celebrate the diversity of races that now call Australia home. We celebrate too the unique flora and fauna of the continent.

Loving God, in your mercy.

Loving God we acknowledge that we are blessed; in this land you have given us peace and freedom. In this country we have a society with a rich variety of people that have come from many lands. We thank you for the church in Australia. Inspire us to promote the unity of your church as we pray for all its congregations and its clergy. We pray for the Federal and State Governments of this country and for all in positions of authority. We pray that they may govern wisely and justly so that all may live in peace and safety.

Loving God, in your mercy.

And as we meet in this sacred place this morning we pray for the needs of the whole world, for peace and goodwill over all the earth. We pray for countries ravaged by war, famine, fire or floods. Look with mercy on all to whom great sorrow has come through war or tragedy, help those who are injured, and support those who are dying. Console and protect those who have lost family or friends and give light to those who despair.

Loving God, in your mercy.

In a world torn apart by divisions and strife, lead all those in authority back into the way of peace, to heal what is damaged and to unite what has been torn asunder. In all lands we remember the unloved, the aged and the little children; the sick in mind or body.

Lord, in your mercy.

We pray for all refugees everywhere especially the men in the Park Hotel in Melbourne where many of them have been held for many years. We also pray for the Biloela family as they languish in detention and ask that you inspire our Government to relinquish the cruelty of their black-letter-law approach. We pray for refugees in makeshift and unsafe camps along the Myanmar Thai border. We pray that all who deal with asylum seekers do so with compassion, respect and fairness.

Lord, in your mercy.

We pray for ourselves and for each other. Give us a vision of what we are capable of becoming. As Jesus changed water into wine at the wedding at Cana, we ask that you transform us, so that despite being ordinary people we become capable of doing extraordinary things. Give us all the courage to affirm the values of faith, integrity and love and to proclaim the sure and certain hope that these sacred ideas will triumph and endure.

Loving God we bring special prayers for all our children who will be commencing school this week. We especially pray for the ones who are starting at a new school. We pray they will not feel lost without their friends but know that you will be with them always. We pray for Isabella as she starts her career at Sydney Uni and wish her well in her studies.

Healing God we pray comfort and love for all the families who have lost loved ones this week through the Covid pandemic. We also pray for the many people who have contracted the virus, may they regain their strength

quickly and return to the normal lives. We continue to pray for all the frontline workers and their families.

Today in our World Circle of Prayer we pray for the people of North Africa – for people in Libya, Morocco and Tunisia. We pray for all the people of these countries: Muslims, the tiny remnant of Christians, those of other faiths who continuing bearing witness to their faiths and for all people of good will. We pray for an end to political violence, for an end to how dominating powers have fought over these lands and their resources through the years and for those suffering exploitation and mistreatment as they travel through these countries.

I will close with a prayer attributed to St Augustine of Hippo that was chosen by the World Council of Churches for today.

Prayer on the Road of Life

God of life, there are days
when the burdens we carry
 are heavy on our shoulders
 and weigh us down,
when the road seems dreary and endless,
 the skies grey and threatening,
when our lives have no music in them,
 our hearts lonely,
 our souls losing their courage.

Flood the path with light.
Turn our eyes to where
 the skies are full of promise;
tune our hearts to brave music;
give us the sense of comradeship
 with heroes and saints of every age.

So quicken our spirits
that we may be able to encourage the souls of all,
who journey with us on the road of life,
to your honour and glory.

We ask these prayers
knowing that God is always listening
and will answer them in his own way.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
我們在天上的父，
願人都尊祢的名為聖，
하늘에 계신 우리 아버지，
아버지의 이름을 거룩하게 하시며，

your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
願祢的國降臨，
願祢的旨意行在地上，
如同行在天上。
아버지의 나라가 오게 하시며，
아버지의 뜻이 하늘에서와 같이
땅에서도 이루어지게 하소서.

Give us today our daily bread.
我們日用的飲食
今日賜給我們，
오늘 우리에게 일용할 양식을 주시고，

Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.

免我們的債

如同我們免了人的債

우리가 우리에게 잘못한 사람을

용서하여 준 것같이 우리 죄를 용서하여 주시고,

Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.

不叫我們遇見試探，

救我們脫離兇惡，

우리를 시험에 빠지지 않게 하시고

악에서 구하소서.

For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours now and for ever.

因為國度，權柄，榮耀，

全是祢的，直到永遠。

나라와 권능과 영광이

영원히 아버지의 것입니다.

Amen.

Dedication of the Offering

The offering will be used for the congregation's continuing mission and ministry in these changing times. Please make your offering through a Bank Deposit or a personal cheque whichever is convenient to you.

Account Name: Boronia Park Uniting Church

BSB: 634-634

Account: 100023784

Reference: Offering

Mail to: Mrs. Robyn Harvey

96a Champion Rd. Gladesville NSW 2111

Please contact Robyn Harvey, Treasurer on 0418 783 290 or robyn.49@bigpond.net.au for more information about how to make Direct Debit.

Song: Lord I Come to You (TIS 685)

Lord, I come to you: let my heart be changed, renewed,
flowing from the grace that I found in you.

And, Lord, I've come to know
the weakness I see in me will be stripped away
by the power of your love.

*Hold me close, let your love surround me;
bring me near, draw me to your side:
and as I wait I'll rise up like the eagle,
and I will soar with you: your Spirit leads me on
in the power of your love.*

Lord, unveil my eyes, let me see you face to face,
the knowledge of your love as you live in me.
Lord, renew my mind as your will unfolds in my life,
in living everyday in the power of your love.

Hold me close, let your love surround me ...

Geoffrey William Bullock

Word of Mission

Our Father,
each day is a little life,
each night a tiny death;
help us to live with faith and hope and love.
Lift our duty above hard work;
let not our strength fail, or the vision fade,
in the heat and burden of the day.

O God, make us patient and pitiful one with another
in the fret and jar of life,
remembering that each fights a hard fight
and walks a lonely way.

Forgive us, Lord, if we hurt our fellow souls;
teach us a gentler tone, a sweeter charity of words,
and a more healing touch.

Sustain us, O God, when we must face sorrow;
give us courage for the day and hope for the morrow.

Day unto day may we lay hold of your hand and look up into thy face,
whatever befall,
until our work is finished and the day is done.

Amen.

[Francis of Assisi \(1181-1226\)](#)

Blessing

The blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
go always before us wherever we go,
be always with us whatever we are,
and remain always among us with the love
this world cannot give.

Go in peace to serve and love the Lord.

Amen.

The Boronia Park Uniting Church communications team who recorded and edited the videos, ensured all the videos ran as they should and designed the invitation and order of service.

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