

Mickleover and Dean Street Methodist Churches Service Sheet

Sunday 27th June 2021

Worship in Mickleover MC is at 10am and on Zoom, worship leader Janet Tristram and preacher Revd Gill Sharp

Worship in Dean St MC is at 10.30am, local arrangement

Celebrating we all belong to God's Family, are loved by God and need to love other people too!

We are loved by God, who calls us his children.

We are called by name (shout out your name in a Mexican wave)

(Turn to the person next to you and say) **You are**

special and loved by God!

(Say together) **Hurrah!**

Hymn StF 409 Let us build a house

Prayer

You are welcome in the presence of God, no matter who you are.

We worship the God who welcomes everyone, sinner and saint and all those in between.

You are welcome in the presence of God, no matter how you look.

We rejoice to know that God looks beyond good looks, success or wealth; God sees the heart.

No matter who we are or how life has treated us...

We are all welcome here in God's house! Amen

(Adapted from <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/>)

Dear God,

You are a great and awesome God.

Today we come to you to say we are sorry

For the things that we have done that we know are wrong.

And for the things we should have done but we didn't do.

We are asking you now to forgive us and help us to make a new start. **Amen**

Friends hear that Good News, that the love of God is beyond measure and that you are included in that love.

Know that you are forgiven and thus freed to love and serve. Alleluia! **Amen**

(Adapted from <https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com/>)

Baptism of Adaline Coley

Hymn: STF 534 Eternal God, we praise your love

Eternal God, we praise your love:

Your love, proclaimed throughout the earth;

Your love, enfolding every child,

Which knew them all before their birth;

Which tends them in their infancy,

And keeps them to eternity.

We praise you for each child of ours

Who comes, to be our pride and joy;

We meet your love in human form

In every gift of girl or boy,

Whose helpless innocence demands

The service of our heart and hands.

Baptise our children, Gracious God,

With your own Spirit; let them be

Enfolded in the grace of Christ,

And know his love in infancy;

Then, joyfully, live out their days

In courage, gentleness and praise.

Reading 1 John 4:7-12, 19-21 (from The Message)

Reflection

A young child visiting his grandmother said,

"Grandma, do you know how you and God are alike?" She was mentally polishing her halo as she replied, "No, how are we alike?" The child replied, "You're both old!"

Out of the mouths of babes is an expression we use when the young and innocent unexpectedly utter words of wisdom. The child's question may come under this category but fortunately the answer doesn't! But do you know how you and God are alike? The answer should be 'You both love unconditionally'.

This passage from John's letter tells us God is love and God showed his unconditional love for each one of us by sending his son Jesus into the world so we can know God through him and our relationship with God is restored. When we love God we become part of God's family.

Families are not always easy to be a part of, some of you will have had good experiences of your

human family, others not, many may have mixed experiences. Relationships with parents, siblings and children can be complex. And that's before we think about the wider family, including in-laws!

Family is a where we should feel we belong, where we are loved for who we are, but that may not be your experience.

The gospel writer Mark tells of one occasion when Jesus' mother and brothers came looking for him and when Jesus was told they were outside the house asking for him, Jesus asked 'Who are my mother and my brothers?' Then Jesus looked at the crowd of people sitting around him, listening to him speak, and said 'Here are my mother and brothers!' Jesus saw all those people as his family. Jesus' love extends to all people, and all who seek him and listen to his words belong to his family.

Jesus showed us that family is about relationships, about showing the same kind of love that God has for us to others. Belonging to the family of God doesn't mean we get it right all the time, we will all still make mistakes, have disagreements, and even fall out with each other, as in a human family, but the example we have of God's love for us and of knowing we are loved by God means we should respond differently than we might otherwise. Loving God includes loving people. We've got to love both. We cannot just walk away when things go wrong because God draws us back to himself, and that also means to his family, the people of God, our church family. We should always be willing to forgive others, as God the Father forgives us. We should always be willing to build bridges where relationships have broken down, as Jesus God's Son did between ourselves and God. We should always be willing to mediate between those who are no longer communicating with each other, as the Holy Spirit, God's presence with us, does for us with God.

Jesus invites us all to belong to his family, the family of God, it is an invitation to know we are loved unconditionally and an invitation to live sharing the unconditional love we receive from God with others. Are you and God alike?

I will sing of the Lord's unfailing love forever!
Young and old will hear of your faithfulness.
Your unfailing love will last forever.
Your faithfulness is as enduring as the heavens...

Intercessions

We thank you for the new life you have created, for this child who has been born among us and whom you have entrusted to us.

Bless the child ears and eyes that they may only see good and beautiful things

Bless their mouth that their laughter and words bring joy and love

Bless their hands and feet that they may learn to help others generously

We ask you to shelter this child from this rough world and keep them safe in the loving arms of their parents

May those arms be strong and responsible, so that as a family they may be full of love for each other

We ask all of this in Jesus's name **Amen**

(Adapted from a prayer by Huub Oosterhuis)

Loving God,

your Son told his disciples

to become like little children.

Lead us to work for the welfare and protection of all young people.

May we respect their dignity

that they may flourish in life,

following the example of the same

Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

(<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship>)

Father, I thank You for making me a part of Your family. For helping me feel less lonely and making me feel I belong. Thank You for accepting and embracing me always, even when I embarrass you! Please show me how I can reach out and be family to someone else, in Jesus Christ's Name! Amen.

Adapted from <http://www.rockchristiancentre.org/>

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: STF 615 Let love be real in giving and receiving

Let us bless each other by saying together

May your feet walk in the way of the Lord

May your voice speak the word of God

May your hands serve God in blessings others

May your life show something of the love of God

May you know the peace of God now and always Amen

To join the Zoom service by telephone dial 0203 481 5237 and use meeting details below