

VISION: To be a radically welcoming servant church.

MISSION: A community of believers, exploring our faith in Christ and embracing our neighbourhood through sharing and caring.

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Our Prayers

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Please Pray for Puerto Rico, The Rt Revd Wilfrido Ramos Orench.

Tri-diocesan Prayers: Pray for the Parish of Pistolet Bay, Priest in Charge The Rev. Katie Flynn with Parishes in St. Matthew, Cook's Harbour; All Saints, Griquet; St. Mark, Boat Harbour along with St. Paul, St. Carol's and St. Paul, Raleigh. Also Pray for the Parish of Plum Point, Priest in Charge, The Rev. Jennifer Renouf with Parishes in The Advent, Plum point/Brig Bay; St. Mary, Black Duck Cove & Forrester's Point; St. Paul, Main Brook, St. Margaret of Scotland, Reef;s Cove and Canada Bay, Roddickton.

Remember the sick and those who have asked us for our prayers: June C., John C., Dorothy H., Emily, Hawa and family, Lillian W, Roger R, Sandra, Eva H, Genevieve H, Krista P, Howard H, Erin M, William H, Barbara and Ella, Jeremy R, Nita S, Dorothy H, Mary K, Janet C, David C, Gilbert B, Neil C, Doreen M, Payton B, Emily B, Walter O, Edna D, Joan B, Larry C, Ony B, Peter H, Roy G, Kathryn F, Jean McGrath; Daisy C, Janice U, Viola McBay Chenoweth, Margie Eastman, and Joan Boland.

Visioning Committee Prayer: *Heavenly Father, we pray that St. Thomas' may be renewed for its mission in this city. Inspire our minds with a vision of your kingdom in this time and this place. Draw us by faith so that we may live to serve you here in this parish and to look to life eternal.*



August 6, 2017 ORDER OF SERVICE FOR HOLY EUCHARIST (BAS) Proper 18

From the Rector's Desk (What is Christian Love – 3 of 3?)

Dear Friends in Christ,

In the Gospel of John, chapter twenty-one, there is a story we are all quite familiar with. Three times Jesus asks Peter, "Do you love me," and three times Peter responds, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." In the first and second incident Jesus uses the Greek word, *Agape*, loosely translated "Charity" – love in the concrete. Each time Peter responds with the Greek word for friendship, *Philia*. The third time both Jesus and Peter uses the word *Philia*. It is sometimes claimed that the stronger word, *agape*, used by Jesus, is too much for Peter, whose own sense of unworthiness overtakes him. Hence, Peter is unable to reach beyond the weaker expression of *Philia* (friendship).

The final type of New Testament love in this three part series is *agape*. *Agape* is **Divine Love** and is the word most often used in the New Testament to describe Christian love. Moreover, it is made manifest in our acts of charity and service for others, including those who we may not even know or like. *Agape* is unconditional in that it does not expect anything in return. It is similar to the mood and attitude of prayer we call adoration, i.e., we desire nothing for self; we demand nothing. We are content to give.

But *Agape* just doesn't happen. Rather, like *philia*, *agape* is a **chosen and committed love**. It takes a decision of our free will, a commitment to act for the good of another. Like *storge* (natural love of affection), *agape* can be a sacrificial and unreciprocated love. It is the love Jesus made manifest for us on the cross. *Agape* is self-giving.

Agape flows from the abundant, overflowing, and unconditional love of God. After all, God is love. Hence, *Agape* is **God's divine love** made visible in our good works of charity and service. It is a joyful and spiritual love that grows in our lives by the grace of God. The Holy Spirit is the source of *agape* love. *Agape* is the type of love that all Christians are called to manifest in their lives by unconditional acts of goodwill and charity for others, especially the poor and disadvantaged.

Since *agape* is divine Love it is superior to the other loves mentioned in the New Testament. Jesus was asking Peter to shepherd his flock with divine love, i.e., to **give all of his life** for that purpose. In other words, we can prove we love Jesus only by loving others. Love is the greatest privilege in the world but it brings the greatest responsibility. For Peter it brought him a cross.

Jesus says to each of us, "Do you love me?" In other words, are we willing to take up our cross and follow him; to give ALL our life?

Your Friend in Christ,

Canon Greg+

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN.....304 O Jesus, I have promised

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY.....p. 185

Celebrant: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Almighty God,

People: To you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry with the bread of his life and the word of his kingdom. Renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your true and living bread, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF GENESIS

The same night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

GENESIS 32:22-31

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM

REFRAIN Show me your marvelous loving-kindness, O Saviour, of those who take refuge at your right hand.

Hear my plea of innocence, O Lord; give heed to my cry; listen to my prayer, which does not come from lying lips.

Let my vindication come forth from your presence; let your eyes be fixed on justice. **R**

Weigh my heart, summon me by night, melt me down; you will find no impurity in me. I give no offence with my mouth as others do; I have heeded the words of your lips. **R**

My footsteps hold fast to the ways of your law; in your paths my feet shall not stumble. I call upon you, O God, for you will answer me; incline your ear to me and hear my words. **R**

Show me your marvellous loving-kindness, O Saviour of those who take refuge at your right hand from those who rise up against them. But at my vindication I shall see your face; when I awake, I shall be satisfied, beholding your likeness. **R**

PSALM 17:1-7, 16

GOSPEL HYMN.....Break thou the bread together

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

People: **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

MATTHEW 14:13-21

Reader: The Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

SERMON.....Rev. Dr. Bob Rowlands

THE APOSTLES CREEDp. 189

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE.....*Response: Help us to be more like Jesus*

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION.....p. 191

THE PEACE.....p. 192

OFFERTORY HYMN.....325 Let us break bread together

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

God our sustainer, accept all we offer you this day, and feed us continually with that bread which satisfies all hunger, your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER #1

SANCTUS.....Holy, holy, holy Lord

THE LORD'S PRAYER (said)p. 211

BREAKING OF THE BREAD #2.....p. 212

Celebrant: We break this bread to share in the body of Christ

All: We, being many, are one body for we all share in the one bread

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the people of God

All: Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION HYMNSThe steadfast love of the Lord; Here isbread, here is wine; Salvation belongs to our God

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of grace, we have shared in the mystery of the body and blood of Christ. May we who have tasted the bread of life live with you for ever. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Celebrant: Glory to God.

All: Whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, forever and ever. Amen

BLESSING

RECESSIONAL HYMN.....Standing on the promises

DISMISSAL

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!