

Skene Parish Church - Service Sheet

Monday 17th January 2022

Today is Martin Luther King Jr Day and to tie in with Eva's reflection on loving our enemies, here are some of his inspiration quotes:

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

"I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear."

"Forgiveness is not an occasional act. It is a permanent attitude."

"Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into friend."

"Man must evolve for all human conflict a method which rejects revenge, aggression and retaliation. The foundation of such a method is love."

"We must develop and maintain the capacity to forgive. He who is devoid of the power to forgive is devoid of the power to love. There is some good in the worst of us and some evil in the best of us. When we discover this, we are less prone to hate our enemies."

"Hate is just as injurious to the hater as it is to the hated. Like an unchecked cancer, hate corrodes the personality and eats away its vital unity. Many of our inner conflicts are rooted in hate. This is why psychiatrists say, "Love or perish." Hate is too great a burden to bear."

Opening Prayer

*Our Father, who art in heaven hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
for thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory, forever ... Amen.*

Call to Worship

"Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor." Luke 7:22

Monday 17 th	Tuesday 18 th	Wednesday 19 th	Thursday 20 th	Friday 21 st
A new Commandment.	708 O Lord the clouds are gathering	739 The church's one foundation	237 Look forward in Faith	186 Father God I wonder

Oceans by Hillsong - <https://youtu.be/6GGFb6LcX3U>

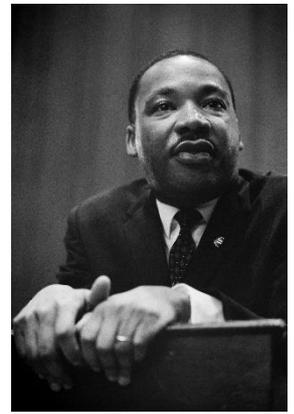
Holy Overshadowing by Graham Kendrick - <https://youtu.be/8irziaoRPF1>

His Mercy is more by the Gettys - <https://youtu.be/l1GiZL60c80>

Magnificent Marvelous Matchless Love by the Gettys - <https://youtu.be/qgEn6frT-4>

God's Word

Monday 17 th	Tuesday 18 th	Wednesday 19 th	Thursday 20 th	Friday 21 st
Luke 6:27-36	Luke 6:37-45	Luke 6:46-49	Luke 7:1-10	Luke 7:11-17



Reflection by Eva Will, elder and church secretary

Love your enemies

This must be the most challenging of the commandments that Jesus gave us, and I fear it's the one we find the hardest to keep.

In this week's passage from Luke, Jesus elaborates a bit more on the instruction first given during the Sermon on the Mount. Not only does he want us to love our enemies but to bless those who curse us, to allow them to slap both our cheeks and to take all our belongings! There is no way that in our flawed human nature we could accomplish this without the grace of God. But isn't that the plan here?

In keeping this command, we are forced to become more dependent on God and to let go of thoughts of revenge which come from the world and not from Him. Unlike us, God's love is not influenced by emotions but we can actively make the choice not to let hatred for others override his love. We can only love because He loved us first and because he sent the Holy Spirit to work in us. God's love is beyond our human understanding – a love that sent his only Son to die in our place in order that, one day, we would be able to be with Him, despite our sin.

When he talks about judging others, Jesus speaks about it coming back to us in equal measure. I love the image of "a good measure, presses down, shaken and running over" – it makes me think of The Great British Bake Off where accurate weighing of the ingredients is so important, from the levelling of a teaspoonful of cinnamon to ensuring all the elements have been shaken, stirred and kneaded together without missing anything out, otherwise the cake won't taste right and Paul Hollywood's steely blue critical eyes will pierce you at the final judging! Aren't we all glad that only our loving Father, who is full of grace and forgiveness will judge us, and we won't be eliminated for one slip up.



Prayer

Heavenly Father, you knew you were asking much from us when you told us to love our enemies and knew we would never be able to do this in our own strength.

Thank you for the grace you have given us to accomplish this to do this in your strength and to make us more like Jesus.

Thank you that your love flows through us so we can share it with others.

Help us to see others through your eyes so we can see the best in them and aren't tempted to judge.

Amen.

Benediction by the Rev Martin Luther King Jr.

Lord...

We thank you for your church, founded upon your Word, that challenges us to do more than sing and pray, but go out and work as though the very answer to our prayers depended on us and not upon you. Help us to realize that humanity was created to shine like the stars and live on through all eternity. Keep us, we pray, in perfect peace. Help us to walk together, pray together, sing together, and live together until that day when all God's children- Black, White, Red, Brown and Yellow - will rejoice in one common band of humanity in the reign of our Lord and of our God, we pray. Amen.