

Weekly Devotions
South Holburn Church
16th June 2020

READINGS

- ¹ Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. *His love endures for ever.*
² Give thanks to the God of gods. *His love endures for ever.*
³ Give thanks to the Lord of lords: *His love endures for ever.*
⁴ to him who alone does great wonders; *His love endures for ever.*
⁵ who by his understanding made the heavens; *His love endures for ever.*
⁶ who spread out the earth upon the waters; *His love endures for ever.*
⁷ who made the great lights – *His love endures for ever.*
⁸ the sun to govern the day; *His love endures for ever.*
⁹ the moon and stars to govern the night; *His love endures for ever.*
- ²³ He remembered us in our low estate; *His love endures for ever.*
²⁴ and freed us from our enemies. *His love endures for ever.*
²⁵ He gives food to every creature. *His love endures for ever.*
²⁶ Give thanks to the God of heaven. *His love endures for ever.*

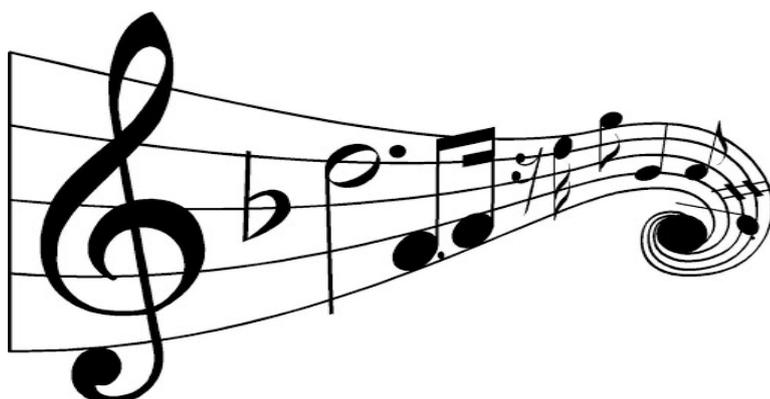
Psalm 136: 1-9, 23-26

This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life. God didn't go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again. Anyone who trusts in him is acquitted.

John 3:16-17 (The Message Translation)

God loves us. He has always loved us. He will always love us. Like the theme dominating a piece of music, this message runs through the Bible, indeed one guise or another, it runs right through history. Yet comparatively few people hear it. Fewer still respond to it. God is continually putting his heart and soul into sending us the most healing music in the world, "I love you". But we are so preoccupied with our own concerns and pleasures that we fail to hear it, or at best, pick up only the faintest and occasional strains of his love song."

Joyce Huggett



REFLECTION

God's love is a constant in our lives. God's love for us is always there with us. God's love remains in difficulty and in peace. God's love is there in joy and in sadness. God's love is there in each and all stages of our lives. God's love is there in times of stress and in times of ease. God's love is simply there, always. God loves us in a way we will never be able to love ourselves.

God's love is always there, but what is lacking is our awareness of God's love. Like tuning in a radio, we need to attune ourselves to see God's love in our lives. And the things that happen to us in life; the busy-ness, the difficulty, the joyful times as well as the challenging times, can all cause us to lose our awareness of God's love.

But even though we lose our sight of God's love, that does not mean God no longer loves us. As the Psalmist says in our reading this week, "God's love endures forever". And all we need to do is to tune back into that love. To learn again to listen the sound of the love of God and see again the sight of God's love in our lives. God is as close to us as our next breath. God is only ever as far away as our next prayer.

We learn to focus again on God, to see God's love again in our lives, through devotion. Through prayer, through reflection, through the Bible - when we make a conscious effort to look for God in our lives, we tune in again to the divine love that runs all through our days and all our nights.

This week allow yourself that space in your life to tune in to God. Take a pause each day when you focus on God. Perhaps a time to pray; perhaps a time to think about life and look for examples of God's love in your experiences; perhaps a chance to read a passage from the Bible. God's love for us is there, always.

PRAYER

We have so many ways to describe and define you God,
Creator, saviour, holy one, all powerful, ever present, omniscient,
All show facets of your nature,
But none confine and limit you Lord.
You reveal yourself in our lives in so many ways,
But always your action is defined by love.

It is your love that saves us in Jesus
It is your love that moves in our lives to give us hope even in the darkest times,
It is your love that we can rely on when all else fails.
The worldly treasures and pleasures may fail us
But your love is the guarantee on which we can build our lives.

So Loving God, in these difficult times,
When we are unsure or afraid,
When we feel alone, or when we are troubled,
When we feel as if our faith is not enough,
When we feel let down and when we let others down.
Remind us of your love, surround us in that love,
Through that love both comfort and challenge us.
In Jesus' name,
Amen.

