

Introductory sentence

1 John chapter 3:1

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

Prayer

Put love into our hearts Lord Jesus, love for You; love for those around us; love for those we find it hard to love. Amen.

Bible Reading

1 Corinthians chapter 13:4-7

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Hymn

Love came down at Christmas, love all lovely,
Love divine; love was born at Christmas,
star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead, love incarnate,
Love divine, worship we our Jesus;
but wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token, love be Yours
and love be mine, love to God and all people,
love for plea and gift and sign.

Reflection

It may seem odd to have this hymn when Christmas is well and truly over, but love really did come down at Christmas. When God created human beings, he created us in His own image, which means we also have self-will and choices to make. God chose to love us, but we did not all choose to love God, for those who chose to love Him He gave the right to become children of God, but for those who chose not to, He came to give us another chance through the death and resurrection of Jesus. God has never stopped loving us. It is an awesome thing to be loved by the creator of the universe.

Prayer

Fill us, we pray, with Your light and life that we may show forth Your wondrous glory.
Grant that Your love may so fill our lives that we may count nothing too small to do for You, nothing too much to give and nothing too hard to bear. Amen.

Bible Reading

John chapter 3:16 & 17

For God so loved the world that He gave His

one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.

Hymn

Loving Shepherd of thy sheep,
keep thy lamb, in safety keep;
nothing can thy power withstand,
none can pluck me from thy hand.

Loving Saviour, thou didst give
thine own life that we might live,
and the hands outstretched to bless
bear the cruel nails' impress.

I would praise thee every day,
gladly all thy will obey,
like thy blessed ones above
happy in thy precious love.

Loving Shepherd ever near,
teach thy lamb thy voice to hear;
suffer not my steps to stray
from the straight and narrow way.

Where thou leadest I would go,
following in thy steps below,
till before my Father's throne
I shall know as I am known.

Reflection

I know this is the season of St. Valentine, but he could not have loved others and suffered for his faith if God had not first loved him.

Blessing

Love is His word, Love is His way, Love is His mark, Love is His sign, Love is His news, Love is His name, Love is His law. Richer than Gold is the love of my Lord, better than splendour and wealth.

May we know this Love to be true in our hearts and minds. Amen



Perfect Love

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