

St Matthew's Anglican Church, Morrinsville

May 2nd, 2021

Theme for Sunday:

Beloved, Be Loved, Be Love



Readings: Acts 8:26-40

Psalm 22:25-31

John 15:1-8

Sentence: I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. *John 15:5*

Collect: Divine Vine Grower, we give thanks for your perfect love. Please accept the offering of our good fruit. Form us and re-shape us so that we may bear more fruit and, in so doing, glorify you. Amen.

Preparation for Sunday from “Love to the World”

Acts 8:26-40

Q: What can you do this week to help a fellow-traveller to better know, love, and understand God?

Prayer– God who welcomes all people, may I extend your welcome to all.

Psalm 22:25-31

Q: Give thanks for God's faithful love throughout your life.

Prayer – Lord God, as your “treasured possession” may I be always obedient to you.

John 15:1-8

Q: The word “abide” is used eight times in these short verses, most often in the form “abide in me”. How do you practice this every day?

Prayer: God who welcomes all people, may I extend your welcome to all.

SPECIFIC PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

- **Pray for India** as it grapples with its Covid crises, especially for its need for oxygen and other help.

- **Pray for** help from other countries in the world for India and other areas where Covid is still a major problem.
- **Pray for** vulnerable people to have enough heating available as we get into colder weather.
- **Pray for** those who are sick, especially Lynda and Caleb and others we may know.
- **Pray for** those who are mourning the loss of a loved one.

GIVE THANKS

- **For** the food bank and community help that is available in our own community.
- **For** all the people willing to help others when they are aware of the needs of others.
- **For**
- **For**

Focus

Love on so many levels ... "Beloved", God's love for us; "Be Loved" allowing ourselves to be known and loved; "Be Love" sharing and spreading the love we have received. Relationships are critical interactions that bear much fruit in our lives, our living, and our growing and understanding others and ourselves.

In John another "I am..." metaphor to increase our understanding of the multiple aspects of our relationship to God and Jesus. We are called to "abide" - to be secure, deeply attached, close, loyal and mutually interdependent with the vine grower.

What fruit is growing and glorifying God in our vineyard, in our lives?

Have you had any experience with holy dialogues and holy encounters like the official from Ethiopia?

Prayer: God may we make love the centre of all that we do, say, and live, both in receiving of love and then the giving of all that we have received. Amen

Next Sunday: May 9th (The Joy of Love)

Readings: Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

9th May	Sidespeople Miers	Welcomer Melanie	Data Margie	MOW Lynne	1st reading Carole	2nd reading Vince	Intercessions Lance	Morning Tea M Budd & M Thomas
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Next Week

Vicar, Val Riches 078880878 or 027 444 8286

Lance 027 555 3286