

## Service for Week 12<sup>th</sup>– 25<sup>th</sup> May 2025

By Chaplain Andy

### **Our Opening Prayer.**

Lord Jesus Christ, forgive us that so often we love only ourselves, our every thought is for our own welfare. Forgive us that, at best, we reserve our love for the exclusive few- family, friends and relations.

Teach us to reach out to our troubled, divided world. Help us to look to you who showed love in action- a love that hopes all things, endures all things- and unless we have that, then all our words, faith and religion count for nothing.

**Amen**

### *The Lord's 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 trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass  
against us.

And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory  
for ever and ever.

**Amen**

### **Bible Reading** John 13:21-35

.....Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, "I tell you the truth, one of you is going to betray me." His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them he meant.

One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him. Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, "Ask him which one he means." Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?"

Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, son of Simon. As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him.

"What you are about to do, do quickly," Jesus told him, but no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him. Since Judas had charge of the money, some thought Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the Feast, or to give something to the poor.

As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night. When he was gone, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once. "My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come. "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."

*Holy words, Holy wisdom,*

***Thanks be to God.***



## Reflection

There are times when we despair and can be overcome with all the bad news and awful things that happen in our world. We hear about wars and conflicts not only around the world but also about murders and crimes committed close to us in our local area. We get reports several times a day in our newspapers and media and it is hard not to be affected and get depressed about it.

Jesus, as he was having a meal with the disciples was very aware that there was someone close to him whose mind had been turned to sin, and would betray him. He tried to tell the disciples this but they could not believe it.

Although they were a close-knit group and each disciple in that group had been chosen by Jesus, when Judas Iscariot took the bread that Jesus offered, Jesus knew that evil had entered Judas's mind.

When Judas had left the table and gone out Jesus told the disciples, the men who had followed him so faithfully across the country preaching and healing, that the path that he was on now, was one that they could not follow. Jesus tells them he is only going to be with them for a short while longer – then he says "God will glorify the Son in himself."

Jesus was of course referring to the fact that he knew he would be put to death -but God in Jesus would restore him in glory. Jesus the Son would return to God the Father. The disciples if they had understood what Jesus was telling them would not have accepted it, Jesus clearly explains it to them again later in the gospel but still they do not accept it.

But in their confusion, and their disbelief that there could possibly be someone in their group so overcome by evil that they would betray him, Jesus gives them a command to bind them together and give them strength. He says "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."

We may feel overwhelmed and depressed when we hear the news with the realization that there is always evil in the world, always people whose minds are bent on sin and destruction. Jesus' command to love one another gives us strength to work together to look for, and find the good in our world and not to be overwhelmed by the bad. **Amen**

## Closing Prayer.

Gracious God,  
take the little love I have,  
nurture, deepen, and expand it, until I have learned what love really means,  
until your love flows through my heart,  
until love is all in all.

**Amen.**