

# Ealing Trinity Circuit

## Summer Worship Series 2017

based on 'God Has a Dream – A Vision of Hope for our Time' by Desmond Tutu

**SS17/4      13 August      God Loves Your Enemies**

**Call to Worship:**

'You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your father in heaven.' (Matthew 5: 43-44a)

**Hymn:** StF 3 Eternal God, your love's tremendous glory

**Prayers of Approach, Confession; Assurance of Forgiveness:**

We worship you, God the Father,  
for the love that created us and the world in which you have set us;  
the love that provides for all our needs;  
the love that satisfies all our longings.

We worship you, God the Son,  
for the love that you demonstrated in earthly life;  
the love that welcomed the poor and the outcast:  
the love that treated women and children, foreigners and enemies  
with the same all-embracing compassion.

We worship you, God the Holy Spirit,  
for the love that has bound your people to you throughout the generations;  
the love that holds even us in your safe keeping;  
the love that will not let us go.

We acknowledge that our love for you falls short of your worth;  
falls short even of our intentions.

We do not always treat our friends and family as we should;  
much less our neighbours and strangers in our communities.  
Most of all, we frequently forget that every person is a child of yours;  
loved as we are loved;  
provided for as you provide for us;  
precious as we are precious.

Forgive us for our unwillingness to act upon this truth;  
encourage us to develop a greater understanding of the Kingdom of your grace;

and show us ways that we might contribute to building that Kingdom here and now.  
In the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

Hear the words of assurance. Jesus said, 'Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.' (John 8: 11)

**Amen.**

**Hymn:** StF 164 Your words to me

**Scripture:**

Psalm 103 StF 823

Matthew 18: 21-35 The Unmerciful Servant

**Hymn:** StF 613 God, how can we forgive

**Reflection: God Loves Your Enemies**

From p46 'God tells us . . . ' to p47 ' . . . no enemies, only family.'

And from p49 'When we see others . . . ' to p50 ' . . . the most brutal circumstances.'

**Scripture:**

I Corinthians 13 The Nature of Love

**Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession:**

Dear Father

Thank you that you are a loving, gracious God. Thank you that you've offered us forgiveness and the gift of new life in you. Thank you that your love is perfect, it never fails, and that nothing can separate us from your love.

We pray that our lives would be filled and overflowing with the power of your love so we can make a difference in this world and bring honour to you. We ask for your help in reminding us that the most important things are not what we do outwardly; it's not based on any talent or gift; but the most significant thing we can do in this life is simply to love you and to choose to love others.

Lord, thank you that your love is patient. Help us to show patience with those around us.

Lord thank you that your love is kind. Help us to extend kindness to others.

Lord thank you that true love is not jealous. Help us cast aside feelings of jealousy or hatred towards others.

Lord, thank you that your love does not brag and is not arrogant. Help us to live without pride or arrogance, but to choose to walk with humility and grace.

Lord, thank you that true love does not act unbecomingly. Lord help us to extend kindness instead of rudeness towards others. Help us to lay aside the critical tone and tearing down with our words, so that we can truly walk in peace.

Lord, thank you that true love does not seek its own. Help us not to live selfishly, looking only to our own interests.

Lord, thank you that true love is not provoked; help us not to become easily angered. Help us not to be so quickly reactive, but instead slow to speak and slow to become angry.

Lord, thank you that your love does not take into account a wrong suffered. Help us not to hold grudges, but to choose to forgive, even when it's difficult.

Lord, thank you that your love does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth. Lord help us to love your words of truth. May we walk in your freedom and wisdom; let it be what drives our lives and choices every day.

Lord, thank you that your love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things; thank you that your love never fails.

Help us to love as you love. Fill us with your Spirit so that we can choose what is best. We are weak Lord, but we know also, that even when we are weak, you are strong within us. Thank you that it's not all up to us. Thank you that you equip us to face each day with the power of your love, your forgiveness, and your grace.

We love you Lord, and we need you today, and every day.

In Jesus' name, **Amen.**

*(Ade Benson)*

**Hymn:** StF 615 Let love be real

### **Offertory**

### **Lord's Prayer**

**Hymn:** StF 709 Of all the Spirit's gifts to me

### **Blessing & Sending Out:**

Go then, in the peace of God which passes all understanding;

go in the love of God which embraces all humankind;

go in joy, to share the Good News with all those you meet.

And the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you,

and with all whom you love, and with all whom you ought to love. **Amen.**