

Words of Light and Hope – Epiphany 16th February 2025, By Fran Neale

As Friday was Valentine's Day, it seems a moment to think about love in its various forms. We'd probably all agree that there is a difference between what we mean when we say, "I love chocolate" and someone proposing, saying "I love you". Apparently the Ancient Greeks had five or even eight words for different sorts of love, whereas we often use one. Here are the five.

Eros. This is what you might call romantic or sexual love. Fairly straightforward.

Storge. This is familial love, a parent for a child, and a child for a parent. One does hear about hideously distorted family relationships, but these are surely outweighed by the many strong and beautiful relationships there are in families.

Philautia. Self love. Narcissus (in ancient Greek legend) was an extreme example of this sort of love and gave it a bad press! But we need a basis of self-love from which to love others. And Jesus himself said, "Love your neighbour *as you love yourself*."

Philia. This is best described as deep friendship, brotherly/sisterly love; it is platonic.

Agape. Unconditional love; altruistic love. This is of course the sort of love God has for us - and the sort of love we have, or seek to have for our Christian brothers and sisters....and for those in the wider world.

It may be helpful to think about these different aspects, but I suspect there isn't always a clear distinction between them. Surely there must be a good deal of altruism in a mother's love for her child. Feelings are often involved, but I don't believe that love is just a fuzzy, warm rosy-eyed feeling. It is, as they say, a "doing word". Isn't the majority of worthwhile love expressed through action?



REEPHAM & WENSUM VALLEY
TEAM CHURCHES

Pew Notes

On Sunday 23rd February, there will be a farewell lunch following The Revds Keith and Helen's final service at 10.30 am in Reepham, when we will be presenting them with a leaving gift. If anyone would like to come to the lunch and/or contribute to their gift, please get in touch with Rosie Foottit, rosie.foottit@gmail.com or phone 01603 870340.

March 8th: 2:30pm – 4pm Broken Planet? Reflecting on recognising, restoring our fragile earth.

March 10th: 7:30pm—9pm Bible Study , Acts of the Apostles. Weston Longville, for more information please see our website or Facebook page.

Services for next week: Sunday 23rd February 2025

10:30 Holy Communion, Whole benefice Service, Helen and Keith's last service, St Michaels, reepham,

The Rev'd. Helen Rengert, 01603 879275 revdhelenrwv@gmail.com

Email parishofficerwv@gmail.com to submit articles or join the mailing list.

FACEBOOK: Reepham & Wensum Valley Events

WEBSITE: www.reepham-and-wensum-valley-team-churches.org.uk

To contact the administrator Joy, please either email or call 07770672329.

Pew Notes are available to download from the RWV website and the E-newsletter

If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact your Parish Safeguarding Officer. Details in the church porch or on the RWV website.

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Thus says the LORD: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the LORD. They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse-- who can understand it? I the LORD test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

The Collect

O God, the strength of all who put their trust in you: Mercifully accept our prayers; and because in our weakness we can do nothing good without you, give us the help of your grace, that in keeping your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Psalms 1 *Beatus vir qui non abiit*

1 Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, * nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!
 2 Their delight is in the law of the LORD, and they meditate on his law day and night.
 3 They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.
 4 It is not so with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind blows away.
 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.
 6 For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked is doomed.

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ--whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those

Luke 6:17-26

Jesus came down with the twelve apostles and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon.

They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them. Then he looked up at his disciples and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. "Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. "Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. "Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets." "But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. "Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. "Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. "Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets."