

## Love thy neighbour

### **P: Opening Prayer**

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. Mathew 5:16  
Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there is hatred let me bring your love;  
Where there is injury your pardon, Lord;  
And where there's doubt true faith in you.

### **Opening Hymn**

Love divine, all love excelling,  
Joy of heaven to earth come down;  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling;  
All thy faithful mercies crown!  
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,  
Pure unbounded love Thou art;  
Visit us with Thy salvation;  
Enter every longing heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit,  
Into every troubled breast!  
Let us all in Thee inherit;  
Let us find Thy promised rest.  
Come, Almighty to deliver!  
Let us all Thy grace receive;  
Suddenly return, and never,  
Never more Thy temples leave.

Finish, then, Thy new creation;  
Pure and spotless may we be.  
Let us see our whole salvation  
Perfectly secured by Thee;  
Changed from glory into glory,  
Till in heaven we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,  
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

*Words: [Charles Wesley](#), Music: Beecher, [John Zundel](#)*

## **Kauma**

**Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson**  
**Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy**

P. Glory be to the Father our Creator, to the Son our Redeemer and to the Holy Spirit who sanctifies us.

C. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

P. Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest.

C. Blessed is He that has come and is to come again in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

P. Holy art thou, O God

C. Holy art thou, Almighty God

P. Holy art thou, Immortal Lord.

C. O Lord; the Messiah: who was crucified for us have mercy on us

P. O Lord, have mercy on us.

C. O Lord, have mercy on us and bless us.

P. O Lord, accept our prayers and worship and have mercy on us

C. Glory be to you, O God.

P. Glory be to you O Creator

C. Glory be to you, O King the Messiah; who has mercy on us sinners. Bless us O Lord.

(Let us sing together the prayer that Jesus taught us)

***All: Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name,  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, On earth as it is done in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.***

***And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.***

***And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.***

***For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, Forever. Amen.***

(Cong to be seated)

**1<sup>st</sup> Lesson: Genesis 4:1-15**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson: James 1:19-27**

## **Meditation**

### **L: Love Thy Neighbour - What's the Origin of this Phrase?**

"Love thy neighbour" is a term that's become almost clichéd over the years. But where did it originate, and what does it really mean? In a time when neighbours are people we rarely see or are thought of as nuisances with barking dogs, noisy children, are of a different religion or perceived status, how can we possibly love our neighbours?

### **Love thy Neighbor - Christ's Answer to Religion**

Love thy neighbour was, in part, Jesus' answer when the Pharisees asked Him about the greatest commandment in the Law (See Matthew 22:36-40). These religious leaders had made almost an art form of classifying all the various laws and giving them relative degrees of importance, so in asking Jesus this question, their aim was to test Him. His answer stunned them: *Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'* All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.

Jesus was summing up all the law in these two statements. If we love the Lord God with all

our heart, soul and mind, loving our neighbor is the natural result. The question then is, who is our neighbour, and how do we love him or her?

Let's look at who Jesus says our neighbour is: *You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.* (Matthew 5:43)

### **Love Thy Neighbour - Get to Know Jesus**

"Love thy neighbour" is not as hard as it looks on the surface. It simply means respecting others and regarding their needs and desires as highly as we regard our own. Keeping this commandment, however, is likely to require the assistance only God, through Christ, can provide.

How can we learn to love the guy next door with the barking dog, especially when we don't even like him? Perhaps the secret is to recognize that our neighbour, whether it's the guy next door, the checker at the local grocery store, or even a church member, is someone as worthy of God's love as you or I.

Could it be that the way we love our neighbour is through getting to know Christ, the living Word of God? It's human nature to emulate those we admire most, so in getting to know Christ, we'll discover a God worthy of our whole-hearted love, and our neighbor will see that love in us.

### **Hymn**

Are you sitting idle? Still there's work to do;  
In the Master's vineyard there's a place for you;  
Be a faithful servant, ever ready stand;  
Where the Master calls you- lend a helping hand.

*Lend a hand, lend a hand, lend a helping hand;  
Weary ones are falling, lend a helping hand!  
Lend a hand, lend a hand, lend a helping hand;  
Jesus still is calling, lend a helping hand!*

Is your voice now silent? There are songs to sing;  
Come and swell the chorus, make his praises ring!  
Till the strains are wafted over sea and land,  
Reaching up to heaven- lend a helping hand!

Do your prayers no longer reach the throne of grace,  
Asking that some wanderer might his steps retrace?  
Earnest prayer may keep him -from the sinking sand,  
Yours today may save him- lend a helping hand!

### **Thanksgiving**

#### **Good Neighbours**

Many a man hath gold to guard  
And house to keep him warm,  
And thoughts to drink and bread to eat  
And strong and ready arm;  
But many a man when time is come

To rest him from his labors  
Hath not so rich a store as I  
Who boast me of good neighbours.

There's many a lad would scale the hills  
And sail the fickle ocean,  
And touching keels at every quay  
Live ever in commotion.  
But what a man may buy with sweat  
Or carve with hearty saber  
He may not own so sure as I  
Who have a jovial neighbour.

Oh, some would cram a granary  
With oats and corn and barley,  
And some would dance a round or two  
With every fiddling Charlie.  
I like the time when fruit is ripe  
And rested from my labors,  
But mostly I like every day  
Because I have good neighbours. *Willard Wattles*

Cong to stand

### **Intercessory prayers**

**L:** Teach us to know how to love enemies,  
To wish them the best of the life you intend each human to have,  
And then pray and act so those wishes come true.  
Teach us hope, so we know that with your blessing, impossible dreams become reality.  
Teach us faith, so we know that only the strength to stop hating will  
halt the cycles of violence and revenge.  
Teach us forgiveness, Teach us, O Lord, your ways.

**C:** Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there is hatred let me bring your love;  
Where there is injury your pardon, Lord;  
And where there's doubt true faith in you.

*Chorus*

*Oh, Master grant that I may never seek  
So much to be consoled as to console;  
To be understood as to understand;  
To be loved as to love with all my soul.*

**L:** When our community looks at our congregation,  
Hears our words and sees our deeds,

Help them to know that you, the God of love, live among us  
And that they can come to us, to learn about Christian love.

**C:** *Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there's despair in life let me bring hope;  
Where there is darkness, only light;  
And where there's sadness, ever joy. ...chorus*

**L:** Oh God, help us in our lives and in all of our attitudes,  
to work with the power of love,  
this controlling power that can solve every problem that we confront in all areas.  
We talk about politics;  
we talk about the problems facing our atomic civilization.  
Grant that all men will come together and discover  
that we can solve these problems through understanding.  
Let us join together in a great fellowship of love  
and bow down at the feet of Jesus.  
Give us this strong determination.  
In the name and spirit of Christ, we pray.  
Amen.

**C:** *Make me a channel of your peace.  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
In giving to all men that we receive;  
And in dying that we're born to eternal life. ...chorus*

Cong to be seated

## **Sunday school Teachers to come forward**

### **Prayer by students**

L: Dear heavenly Father,  
Thank you that we can come together again to Sunday school to learn more about you and your word. Let us put aside all our distractions so that we can listen and be touched by your truth.  
Please help our teachers to guide us through your word. Give them patience and the joy that comes from serving you. Let your Spirit oversee all that goes on in our classroom and make us a little more like our Lord Jesus, for it is in His name that we pray, Amen.

### **Prayer by teachers (To be repeated after the priest)**

Dear Lord, as I begin to teach another class today,  
I pray for guidance from above for what I should say.

May all my words and attitudes, reflect your love and care.  
May I a good example be, Help me, my faith to share.

Make of my heart an open door, for this Dear Lord I pray,  
Through which young lives may come to Thee this day.  
Speak through my voice that they may hear Thine own;  
And that they may see the Living Saviour, Christ alone, Amen.

### **Gospel Reading**

P: Peace be with you all

C: May the Lord make us all worthy to listen to His Word

P: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, which proclaims life and salvation to the world  
s recorded by .....

C: Blessed is He that has come and will come again. Praise to the Father who sent him for  
our Salvation. May his blessings be ever upon us.

P: In the days of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, the Word of life, God incarnate of the  
blessed Virgin Mary, it happened in this way.

C: So we believe and affirm

Romans 15:1-9 (After reading the Gospel the priest says 'Peace be with you all')

C: We thank you , Lord, that you have given us your gospel which is indeed the light of the  
world, that we may be drawn closer to you through the living words from your gospel which  
we have now heard.

### **The Nicene Creed**

We believe in the one true God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all  
things visible and invisible.

We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father  
before all world; Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one  
substance with the Father, by whom all things were made, who, for us men and for our  
salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,  
and was made man. He was crucified also for us in the days of Pontius Pilate; suffered and  
died and was buried. The third day He rose again, by His Father's holy will, ascended into  
heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father. He will come again, with glory, to judge  
both the living and the dead and of His kingdom there will be no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father; who  
with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the  
prophets and the apostles.

We believe in one Holy Catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the  
remission of sins; and look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and the new life of the  
world to come. Amen.

(Cong to be seated)

### **Thanksgiving**

God of mercy, God of grace,  
Show the brightness of Thy face;  
Shine upon us, Savior, shine,

Fill Thy Church with light divine,  
And Thy saving health extend,  
Unto earth's remotest end.

Let the people praise Thee, Lord!  
Be by all that live adored;  
Let the nations shout and sing  
Glory to their Savior King,  
At Thy feet their tribute pay,  
And Thy holy will obey.

Let the people praise Thee, Lord!  
Earth shall then her fruits afford,  
God to man His blessings give,  
Man to God devoted live;  
All below and all above  
One in joy and light and love.  
*Words: Henry F. Lyte, Spirit of the Psalms, 1834.*  
*Music: Ratisbon, Johann G. Werner*

### **Offertory Hymn 1124**

Shining for Jesus everywhere I go,  
Shining for Jesus in this world of woe;  
Shining for Jesus, more like Him I grow;  
Shining all the time for Jesus.

*Shining all the time, shining all the time;  
Shining for Jesus, beams of love divine;  
Glorifying Him every day and hour;  
Shining all the time for Jesus.*

Shining for Jesus when the way is bright;  
Shining for Jesus in the darkest night;  
Shining for Jesus, making burdens light;  
Shining all the time for Jesus.

Shining for Jesus in a world of sin;  
Shining for Jesus, bringing lost ones in;  
Shining for Jesus, glorifying Him;  
Shining all the time for Jesus.

Shining for Jesus when He gives me grace  
Shining for Jesus while I run the race;  
Shining for Jesus, till I see His face;  
Shining all the time for Jesus.  
*Words: Charles Inglis. Music: Arranged from Charles C. Case (1843-1918)*

### **Message:**

## **Closing Thought**

### **Teach your children to be good neighbours**

Being a good neighbour is very nearly a lost art! However, teaching kids to deal with neighbours in a kind, friendly and safe way is still important.

The world can be a lonely place. Having someone close by who will look out for you and who you can do the same for is becoming more important than ever.

What does being a good neighbour mean? It does not mean being nosy. It doesn't mean imposing, gossiping, or complaining. It means having a friendly and protective outlook on your community, irrespective of religion or caste. Teaching your child about being a good neighbour means taking responsibility for preparing the next generation to live peacefully in a sometimes scary world. If we don't teach them, who will?

You may have to teach your child about gossiping. Engaging in discussion about others when they do not know all the facts, or when something is not their business, invites trouble and can be cruel. Many neighbours have feuded over something that started as a careless comment. Let your child know that it is better not to say anything if they can't say something nice!

You relay a powerful message when you behave in a neighbourly way. Children generally follow your lead. Waving "Hello", and giving a simple greeting shows your openness to others. Stopping to exchange a few words when you are on a stroll or when you meet by chance at the grocery store will show your child that it is normal to take the time to acknowledge a neighbour.

If you have occasion to help a neighbour in need, you will be providing your child with an important life lesson. Reaching out to others will help your child know we are all connected to each other and that we are all responsible for making our little piece of the planet a happier and friendlier place.

## **Closing prayer (a prayer for your neighbour)**

### **All together:**

I said a prayer for you today and know God must have heard; I felt the answer in my heart although He spoke no word. I prayed that He'd be near to you at the start of each new day, to grant you health and blessings, and friends to share your way. I asked for happiness for you in all things great and small. But it was for His loving care I prayed the most of all.

### **Benediction**

P: God of grace, help us to love you and to love our neighbours more fully. Open our eyes to the needs of those around us; open our ears to the cries of the poor and the hurting; open our hearts to share and show the love of Christ. In his name we pray, amen.

## **Doxology & Kiss of peace**

We have heard the joyful sound: Jesus saves! Jesus saves!  
Tell the message all around: Jesus saves! Jesus saves!  
Bear the news to every land, climb the steep, cross the waves;  
Onward! 'tis our Lord's command; Jesus saves! Jesus saves!

Sing above the toil and strife: Jesus saves! Jesus saves!  
By His death and endless life Jesus saves! Jesus saves!

Sing it softly through the gloom, when the heart for mercy craves;  
Sing in triumph o'er the tomb: Jesus saves! Jesus saves!

Give the winds a mighty voice: Jesus saves! Jesus saves!  
Let the nations now rejoice: Jesus saves! Jesus saves!  
Shout salvation full and free; to every strand that ocean laves;  
This our song of victory: Jesus saves! Jesus saves!

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Other thoughts/quotes

### **Love Your Neighbor As Yourself**

Eight times in the Bible we are told to love our neighbor -- one of the Bible's most repeated commands.

Loving your neighbor is the opposite of selfishness -- the common human practice. Acting in divine love demonstrates that unselfishness is possible for a human -- showing a reality that cannot be ignored or denied.

Whether they appreciate you, or respond to your love, Jesus's command is still valid: You must show love to your neighbor in a practical way.

### **Who Is A Neighbor?**

When Jesus was asked by someone who his neighbor was (Luke 10:29), Jesus responded by telling the story of the good Samaritan -- who helped a stranger in need by the roadside. Then, in verse 37, Jesus told the man to go and do like the good Samaritan.

A neighbor is someone who is near-by *wherever* you are.

**Primrose Mar Thoma Church, Bangalore- [mtcblr@gmail.com](mailto:mtcblr@gmail.com)**