

God's Love and Ours 19th March 2020

⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

¹³ This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit.

1 John 4:7-13 New International Version

This morning I was in Tesco early getting milk, margarine, Easter Eggs – you know the essentials! As I went through the check out, the young man serving me asked me what I did and I explained that I was a Church of Scotland Minister. He went onto ask me what I thought of all that was going on in the world and what part God was playing in it, after all wasn't it him who caused this, to get back at us for eating the wrong things.

I'm quite surprised how calm I was at this point but went onto inform the young man that God does not deal out difficulties, it's man who has created this problem, we are the ones to blame, if indeed there is any blame to be had.

My God is a God of love and care and where God is just now is with those who are sick at home or in hospital. He is in hospitals and Care Homes with those caring and treating those ill and he is with those who are at home, especially with those by themselves and are find life difficult. God is among us, in our world, through his Holy Spirit, comforting those who mourn, encouraging those who are down and depressed and encouraging us all to reach out to our neighbour in need and show his love to others. We love God, by loving our neighbour, whoever that may be. This is a wonderful way to serve God in this time of bewilderment and crisis.

Let's pray

Loving and Heavenly Father,
We thank you that you are in the everyday and ordinary things of life.
You are in the sunlight and in the rain,
You are with us as we get up from sleeping
And as we prepare to lie down again
As well as everything in between.

We thank you that through Jesus
you have given us great examples
of how we can love you and one another;
through the service we offer to one another,
by phoning or collecting or delivering things
for people unable to do things safely for themselves,
as well as through our thoughts and prayers.

We thank you Lord,
That you Spirit dwells with each one of us,
And he encourages us to step up and step out in your name,
He encourages and strengthens us to face what is challenging
And he gives us the right words of comfort and encouragement to say
to those who are scared of what the future holds.

Bless us and bless all those who are fearful and vulnerable today,
Make your presence felt with them,
And lead them in your everlasting way,
Through Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord,
Amen.