

Minster Bethel Congregational Church (MBCC)

14/03/2021 -- Mother's Day – Church Parade

The Greatest Gift is Love



Next week is our fortnightly zoom
"Church & Chat"

A short church reflection with a hymn, reading, (children's activity), prayer, "thought for the week" and then a time to chat. If you need help to join please ask any deacon

Join us next week at 10 am:

Topic: Church and Chat

Time: This is a recurring meeting

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75124173520?pwd=QVB4WUx6QXg3Y3hQc1NQYkxINmozZz09>

Meeting ID: 751 2417 3520

Passcode: Bethel2021

All lockdown services can be found at: www.mbccs.co.uk

Good morning and welcome to our mother’s day church parade service.

Our hymn for today is “What Kind of Love is this?”

[What Kind Of Love Is This? - YouTube](#)

What kind of love is this
That gave itself for me
I am the guilty one
Yet I go free
What kind of love is this
A love I’ve never known
I didn’t even know His name
What kind of love is this

What kind of man is this
Who died in agony
He who had done no wrong
Was crucified for me
What kind of man is this
Who laid aside His throne
That I might know the love of God
What kind of man is this

By faith I have been saved
It is the gift of God
He destined me to be His own
Such is His love
No eye has ever seen
No ear has ever heard
Nor has the heart of men conceived
What kind of love is this

Love is patient, love is kind.



It does not envy,
it does not boast,
it is not proud.

It does not dishonor others,
it is not self-seeking,
it is not easily angered,
it keeps no record of wrongs.
Love does not delight in evil
but rejoices with the truth.

It always protects,
always trusts, always hopes,
always perseveres.
Love never fails.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

[BibleVerseImages.com](#)

The reading today is 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 focusing on:

[1 Corinthians 13 NIVUK - If I speak in the tongues of men or of - Bible Gateway](#)

LOVE is patient.
LOVE is kind. ♥
 IT DOES NOT ENVY. IT DOES NOT BOAST.
 IT DOES NOT DISHONOR OTHERS
 IT IS NOT { SELF-SEEKING IT KEEPS NO
 EASILY ANGERED RECORD OF WRONGS
 LOVE DOES NOT DELIGHT IN EVIL
 BUT REJOICES WITH THE TRUTH
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 HOPES
 PERSEVERES
LOVE. NEVER. FAILS.
 1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-8

The Greatest is Love

As you all know today is mother's day, and usually at our mother's day service we think of one special mother from the bible. Often we think about Moses' mum Jochebed, or about Mary, the ultimate mum. She raised Jesus (and his brothers and sisters) knowing the immense privilege and responsibility with which she had been tasked.

Other great mums of the bible include:

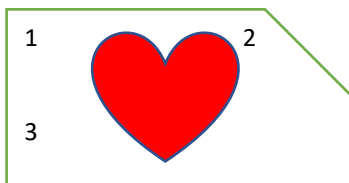
- Eve - right at the very beginning. Eve is literally the reason you and I are here on this earth today. She had a great responsibility as the very first mum: teaching her children about God and His plans for the world.
- Sarah - like a lot of mums, may have doubted God at times, but He proved He was still faithful, blessing her a son who would eventually become part of the genealogy of Jesus.
- Naomi – an amazing mother-in-law. In her darkest hour, Naomi was returning to her native Bethlehem after the death of her husband and both of her sons. Her grief must have been immeasurable, but in the midst of it all, she still had compassion for the well-being of her daughters-in-law, urging them to go back to their families where they would be well-cared for. Naomi's teachings and example also ultimately convinced her daughter-in-law Ruth to stay with her, and to decide she wanted Naomi's God to be her God, too.
- Widow of Zarephath - Things were rough for Elijah, who was currently running for his life from Jezebel. But things were even rougher for the single mum from Zarephath, as she and her son were really suffering the effects of a rampant drought. As she was gathering sticks to prepare her last meal ever, Elijah arrived and asked her for a meal. Her hunger was overwhelming, but her faith was greater. She used up the last of her ingredients to make a meal for Elijah, and God provided: they ate for many days, as her jars of oil and flour were constantly refilled.
- Hannah - best known for her deep heartbreak over not being able to have children—but she's also known for her faithfulness. Not once did Hannah give up hope that God would hear her prayer. And when He did, she responded with a sacrifice unbearable to many mums: not just dedicating her baby Samuel to the Lord, but leaving him at the temple to serve God for the rest of his life. What a mum!
- Pharaoh's daughter - Proof that you don't have to birth a baby to be a mother. Pharaoh's daughter went from ordinary woman to mum in one early morning bath, when she discovered baby Moses and decided to adopt him and provided a loving home for a child who needed one.
- Lois – and for the grandmas! Lois was the mother of Eunice, who was the mother of Timothy, who ended up being one of Paul's missionary companions. Not a lot is known about Lois, but her steadfast faith, example and teachings were a strong influence on Timothy, proving that grandmas are extremely important.

So what is it that made all these mums so great? The answer - LOVE.



Love is like this piece of paper! Count the corners. Yes, there are four corners.

Now, I'm going to share some of this love, I'm going to cut off a big piece of love and give it to you.



Let's count the corners again. There are more! We shared some love and we have MORE love! Let's see if it happens again.



Let's count the corners again. Oh my goodness, it happened again.
When we share love, there is MORE love.

We can carry on and each time I give a bit away I end up with more love.

Every time we share love, there is MORE love!

“Love is something if you give it away”

[Love is Something, if You Give it Away \(Magic Penny\) \[with lyrics for congregations\] - YouTube](#)

Love is something if you give it away
Give it away, give it away
Love is something if you give it away
You end up having more

It's just like a magic penny
Hold it tight and you won't have any
Lend it, spend it, and you'll have so many
They'll roll all over the floor

For love is something if you give it away
Give it away, give it away
Love is something if you give it away
You end up having more

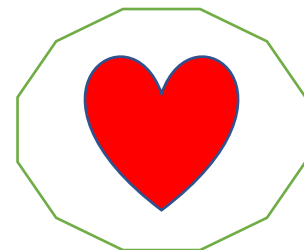
So let's go dancing till the break of day
And if there's a piper, we can pay
For love is something if you give it away
You end up having more



The Bible tells us love does some amazing things, like love people even when you don't really like them very much. It says love is patient and kind and sticks around when we need help. Every person can share love. Today we are thinking about a special group of people who really share love with all of us — all our mothers! We have so many amazing women who share their gifts and love with us, including our mums, step mums, foster mums, grandmas, aunts and all our church mums.

As I've continued to cut the corners of my paper its ended up looking like this:

Well, look at that! I've shared so many corners of love, it's become a circle! And a circle has no end. Love just keeps going and going and going! We can share as much love as we want because it never runs out. The more love we share with others, the MORE love we have to share. That is amazing!

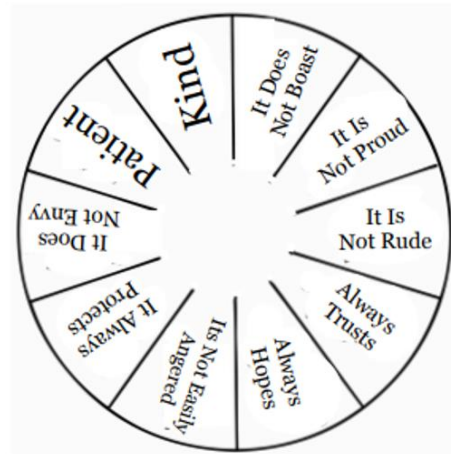


Lets sing the Chorus "God's Love is like a circle" [God's love is like a circle - YouTube](#)



Today's Pray:

Dear God, we thank you for the gift of love that never runs out no matter how much we share with others. And we thank you for all our mothers who care for us with kindness, patience, and unconditional love. Amen.



Instructions

1. Colour and cut out both circles.
2. Make a small hole into the middle of the circles and stick a butterfly clip through it. Open and bend the legs.

