



# ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

*"Our mission is to bring the good news of Jesus Christ's love to our entire community through traditional Anglo-Catholic worship, fellowship, outreach, and Christian formation."*

**Our Vision:** *"We strive to be a haven of healing, reconciliation, joy and peace in service to our wider community and beyond, so that our example in prayer and practice may reflect Christ's love for us all."*

## THIS SUNDAY October 25 & BEYOND

### Do We Practice Love?



In modern times social media is overloaded with the word *love*, images that evoke love, quotes from different leaders about love. Emojis representing love and loving feelings are found in almost every friendly text or email. It should be a sign that we live in world where love prevails. But is that really the case?

Our common interpretation of love as a warm and fond feeling may lead us to think that there is enough love in our lives and in other people's lives, but what is the sound biblical concept of love? What do the Law and the Prophets refer to when they talk about love of God and love of our neighbor? And what did Jesus and the Apostles mean by this?

In the Hebrew Scriptures we find clear references to the love of God as the primary obligation of every good Jew. The *Shema* or recitation of the faith that was passed from one generation to the next, and was usually written on people's foreheads and over the doors of houses, clearly stated the obligation to "love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind and all your strength". In other words, true believers should profess this love of God with every part of their being.

How was this love practiced? Simply by following God's commands and making them part of one's daily life. There was nothing about warmth or fondness here.

The Hebrew Scriptures also tell about God's great love for His Creation, including humankind. This love is translated into the goodness of nature in providing all creatures with what they need, and the justice and compassion that God shows to His people.

The Scriptures also deal with the love that we are to show our neighbors, not only those of the same nation, but also to the alien, the dispossessed and the widow. The rule is to love our neighbors as we love ourselves, and this love is to be shown in practical deeds of mercy and justice. The Prophets condemned the rulers' injustice and indifference to the suffering strata of society and related the evils that came to the Jews as God's punishment for this lack of real love.

Jesus was a Jew and as such His notion of love is well founded in the Hebrew tradition. The New Testament uses the Greek word *Agape* to refer to this kind of love which is translated into concrete acts of compassion, justice, and mercy for all, including our enemies or those we may dislike. The love that Jesus referred to went beyond what could be expected in the Hebrew tradition though. He proposed a love that includes giving yourself, your own life, for the life of the others. He not only proposed it but exemplified it with His own life. He incarnated God's loving life in His own in the perfect way, thus becoming His perfect image on earth.

As followers of Christ, the incarnation of God's all-inclusive love, if we call Jesus our Lord, then His love for all must actually be the compass of our own lives, not so much a warm or fond feeling (although the practice of real and concrete loving deeds may make us feel that for our fellow human beings and the whole of Creation in the long run), but the robust practical biblical love that our Creator wants us to share with all.

If there is something that Christians can and should teach the world right now is this true notion of love, based on biblical tradition and Jesus' teachings and life. By practicing this *Agape* and spreading its practice throughout the world, we could contribute to rescue love from the convenient notion of self-satisfying indulgent feeling that it has fallen into, and make its real impact prevail in our world.

Fr. Carlos E. Expósito, Rector

Readings for this Sunday – The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost  
Exodus 22:21-27 Psalm 1 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8 Matthew 22:34-46

## CALENDAR

Note: Sunday Mass is now held in All Saints' historic church at 9am. Tuesday Noon Mass is held in the church. All other gatherings will be Zoom meetings. Visit our web site for the Zoom link (see below).

**SUNDAY** The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost  
9:00am Mass in All Saints' historic church  
Recording of Mass available before noon at [www.allsaintschurch.org](http://www.allsaintschurch.org)

**TUESDAY** Noon Mass in All Saints' Church

**FRIDAY** Noon Mass with Discussion and Insights into  
Sunday's Lectionary at the Meditation.  
Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at [www.allsaintschurch.org](http://www.allsaintschurch.org)

**SUNDAY** The Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost  
9:00am Mass in All Saints' historic church  
Recording of Mass available before noon at [www.allsaintschurch.org](http://www.allsaintschurch.org)