



## Sixth Sunday of Easter

*1 Corinthians 13:1-13*

### Summary

We continue this week in Paul's letter to the church in Corinth, a place where people are in deep disagreement over which teachings and teachers to which they should be devoting themselves.

In this passage, Paul reminds the people that their attitudes towards one another, and indeed towards their work and the work should be centred on love. God's love is what guided Jesus' ministry, and that same love should guide our relationships.

May we strive to live with such love in our church today.

### Prayer

Companion Christ,  
You are beside us on the many winding roads that we walk, guiding us from brokenness to wholeness. In you we see love incarnate, and as your followers we strive to bring that healing love into all that we do. Hear us as we pray, O Christ. AMEN

## The Story Behind the Words

- ❖ Why is Paul writing this letter to the Corinthians?
- ❖ What sort of divisions are present in the church in Corinth?
  - Why do these divisions exist?
- ❖ In what ways does this passage focused on love speak to the divisions that exist in the church of Corinth?
- ❖ ?

## The Characters

- ❖ Are there any characters in this passage?
  - If so, who are the active participants, and what are they doing?
- ❖ Who in Corinth needs to hear this message?
- ❖ Where do you see yourself in this reading?
- ❖ In what ways does this reading speak to relationships in the modern church?

## What is the Word saying to us?

- ❖ What is the central message of this passage regarding the importance of love?
- ❖ Why do you think Paul emphasises love over all the other spiritual gifts?
- ❖ What role does love play in building and sustaining healthy relationships within the Christian community?
- ❖ What kind of love is Paul talking about in this part of the letter?
  - How is this love different from other kinds of love?
- ❖ What are your thoughts on the imagery that Paul uses in the opening verses of this passage?
  - What does this say about the core of our faith lives as followers of Christ and bearers of God's love?
- ❖ Why is it important for Paul to suggest that love "does not insist upon its own way"?
  - How does that speak to the churches of then and now?

## Where do we go from here?

- ❖ Why do you think this reading is used so often during modern day wedding ceremonies?
  - Why might this be an inappropriate reading for that venue?
- ❖ Why would this reading more appropriately be referenced in groups where there is disagreement and discord?
  - What does it teach us about our relationships with one another, especially in the church?
- ❖ What practical steps can we take to cultivate and demonstrate the kind of love described in this passage in our daily lives?