

Ramsgate Salvation Army

Sunday 9th January 2022

A warm welcome as we gather as the family of God today, especially if you are not normally with us on a Sunday.

May we all feel the welcome of God and each other.



From 2022 Vision & Commitment becomes **Covenant Sunday**. This will help us to consider what it means to be a covenantal people and how to live this out as individuals and as a church. We pray that the newly named **Covenant Sunday** will enable us to explore the importance of making and keeping covenant and that this date each year will continue to be of great significance to us all.

We meet at The Salvation Army Hall Sunday 10.30 am.

Also Sunday worship is livestreamed on  **YouTube**

You can find a link on the Ramsgate Salvation Army page

www.salvationarmy.org.uk/ramsgate

What's happening at Ramsgate Salvation Army?

Sunday 9th (10.30 am)

Monday to Friday (6.30am-9am)

Monday (9.30 am – 11.30 am)

Monday (6pm)

Tuesday (9am to 12 noon)

Tuesday (12 noon)

Tuesday (12.30 pm)

Tuesday (1 pm)

Tuesday (6.45pm)

Wednesday (11 am)

Wednesday (7pm)

Thursday

Friday (10am - 12 noon)

Friday (10am - 12 noon)

Friday (6.00pm)

Sunday 16th (10.30 am)

Sunday Worship **COVENANT SUNDAY**

Breakfast Drop-in (street homeless only)

Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler group)

ACE Overcomers

Food Parcel Preparation

Light Lunch

Prayers at hall.

Bible Study at hall –

Bible Study & Prayers by ZOOM

Friendship Club & Luncheon Club

Counselling at hall (2pm – 5pm)

Songster and Band Practice

Forward Trust using hall.

War Cry Ministry Ramsgate

Food Bank

KIDS Club –

Sunday Worship – and Sunday School



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Sorry....last year I missed Eileen's message. This year my apologies are to Cherie and Tom.....they said....

"Wishing everyone a peaceful Christmas and a healthy and blessed New Year"



Flowers for this week are thanks to Helen

Don't forget the Flower List for 2022

Birthdays

Janet Russell	Saturday 8-January
Joyce Thorogood	Saturday 8-January
Helen Harris	Monday 10-January
Joyce Hill	Wednesday 12-January
Rebecca James	Friday 14-January
Jan Penfold	Friday 14-January

Prayers please for

For those, heeding medical advice, and not able to meet in worship because of high Covid numbers.

For **David Miles**, **Jan Penfold** and **John McCairn** all waiting for medical treatment.

For **Sue Layton** who is unwell at this time

For Sheila's friend **Marilyn** who is struggling with infirmity and unable to move .

For **Paul**, friend of Douglas, diagnosed with a terminal illness. And for another friend of Douglas very unwell at this time.

For Sue Layton's relation **Barry** battling with MND, continued prayers for **Paul** and **Sue Taylor** and for **Paul Wales**.

For all those suffering from **Long Covid** – which include some in our church family.

Thought – What is the covenant?

One of the most important parts of any contract is the 'terms of reference'. This section ensures that both parties are fully aware of the commitment they are taking on. In the 'terms of reference' critical words and phrases are defined so that there can be no room for confusion. Our covenant with God is not a contract between equal partners. However, this sacred commitment motivated by divine love and sustained by grace, can in its most basic form seem like a contract, and so like any other contract a clear 'terms of reference' is essential.

'Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together.

One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "**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 neighbour as yourself.**' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.'" Matthew 22:34-40



What does this covenant mean?

- 'Who is my neighbour?' If Jesus visited Thanet, who would he identify as the 'Samaritan'? Who are the people or individuals we are wary of and seek to avoid?
- How much does our church reflect the community in which it serves? Does the demographic of our fellowship match that of our community? What can we as a fellowship do to break down the barriers of prejudice that all too often divide us?

- We can't love others until we love ourselves. 'God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him' (John 3:17). What can we practically do to become aware of God's love?
- What are the hallmarks of Christianity? What are the benchmarks of holiness? (Colossians 3:12-17; Galatians 5:22-26.) How easily can these be identified in our fellowship or in us as individuals?
- As we consider these points, what are our main worries or fears? Holiness exposes believers to risk because when we 'love our neighbour as ourselves' we become vulnerable in so many ways. 1 John 4:18 says that 'perfect love drives out all fear'. What do we need to do as a fellowship to create a safe space where members can become vulnerable as we seek 'to love God and love others?'

Early Methodists and primitive Salvationists used to refer to holiness as 'perfect love'. This is God's perfect love for us, birthing within us a love which, over time, perfected by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, overflows in a tidal wave of unconditional love for others.

King David's understanding of salvation and transformation expressed in Psalm 51 is almost Christian in its appreciation of this process we call holiness:

'Create in me a pure heart, O God,
 and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
 Do not cast me from your presence
 or take your Holy Spirit from me.
 Restore to me the joy of your salvation
 and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.'
 Psalm 51:10-12

David, at his lowest point, at the moment in his life when self-loathing is dominant, at a time when Nathan has publicly exposed his hypocrisy and selfishness, recognises that there still might be hope. Perhaps God can still use him to teach transgressors God's ways, so that sinners will turn back to him (v13).

Our covenant demands that we love our enemies as ourselves, a seemingly impossible task. With the crowd who overheard Christ's conversation with the rich young ruler, we say in exasperation, 'Who then can be saved?' Christ's response will always be: 'With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.'

Do we find it difficult to love those we have always been suspicious of? Do we find it hard to love ourselves? Well, that's OK, because the 'terms of reference' as defined by the passage we read earlier make only one demand upon us – and that is to allow ourselves to be loved by God, to bathe in his love, to become lost in the depth of his mercy and then allow his love to do the rest!

'Love divine, all loves 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.

Finish then thy new creation,
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation,
Perfectly restored in 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.'

Charles Wesley, SASB 262

S	R	A	G	N	A	H	R	E	P	L	I	E	D	K	Y	R	As yourself
T	P	T	E	S	T	E	D	N	O	C	E	S	M	C	V	E	Commandments
J	K	G	N	E	I	G	H	B	O	U	R	O	I	O	Y	H	Expert
S	W	A	L	A	K	U	Y	G	N	W	W	U	N	M	P	C	First
T	A	K	I	V	S	T	D	O	G	S	M	L	D	M	H	A	Greatest
N	H	D	B	R	E	Y	S	R	U	D	F	M	N	A	A	E	Hang
O	J	K	D	T	U	V	O	R	O	R	P	K	Q	N	R	T	Hearing
I	T	K	S	U	S	O	O	U	I	L	G	Q	O	D	I	V	Heart
T	B	R	E	Q	C	E	Y	L	R	F	E	O	E	M	S	Q	Jesus
S	G	A	E	U	D	E	T	L	C	S	T	H	D	E	E	P	Law
E	R	N	E	P	K	E	E	A	L	F	E	Q	T	N	E	R	Love
U	Z	W	I	K	X	S	C	S	E	A	L	L	C	T	S	O	Love your
Q	W	C	N	R	U	E	V	N	R	R	H	C	F	S	W	P	Mind
U	G	N	Y	S	A	N	L	T	E	C	G	T	J	P	A	H	Neighbour
A	W	R	E	H	T	E	G	O	T	L	A	W	I	T	I	E	Pharisees
H	V	J	V	M	I	O	H	Z	S	C	I	E	G	W	M	T	Prophets
S	E	E	R	U	O	Y	E	V	O	L	H	S	C	M	J	S	Question
																	Replied
																	Sadducees
																	Second
																	Silenced
																	Soul
																	Teacher
																	Tested
																	The Lord
																	Together
																	With all your
																	Your God

Matthew 22:34-40

The Greatest Commandment

³⁴ Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. ³⁵ One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: ³⁶ ‘Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?’

³⁷ Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: “Love your neighbour as yourself.” ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.’

“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 neighbour as yourself.”

Matthew 22:37-39 (NIV)

Loving Father,

Your love for me is unconditional and unceasing.

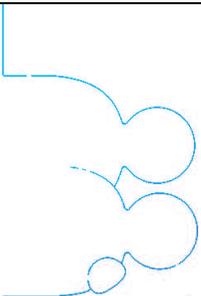
**The depth of your love is beyond my comprehension,
but today I respond to that love.**

**As your love lives in me, may my thoughts, my words,
and my actions reflect you at all times and in every place.**

**May my soul be a place where we meet – where all that I am
becomes all that you want me to be in heart, mind and spirit.**

**That in being one with you, I might see you, know you,
and show you in every part of my life.**

**That in me and through me your Kingdom may come now.
May this Covenant of Love draw me deeper and
bring others closer to you.**



Signed

