Service for Epiphany 6

Welcome:

‘This is love: not that we loved God but that he loved us

and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.’ 1 John 4:10

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father

And the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

Be with us, Father God

**Nothing can separate us from your love**

Raise us up Son of God.

**make us one in spirit and in truth**

Breathe on us, breath of God

**fill us with your saving power.** **Amen.**

The Lord is here

**His Spirit is with us.**

Opening hymn: Be thou my vision

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart

Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art –

Thou my best thought, by day or by night,

Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom and Thou my true word

I ever with thee and Thou with me Lord

Thou my great Father and I Thy true son

Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one

Be Thou my battle shield, sword for the fight

Be Thou my dignity, Thou my delight

Thou my soul’s shelter, Thou my high tower

Raise Thou me heavenward O Power of my power

Riches I heed not, nor man’s empty praise

Thou mine inheritance now and always

Thou and Thou only First in my heart

High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art

High King of heaven, my victory won

May I reach heaven’s joy, O bright Heaven’s Sun

Heart of my own heart, whatever befall.

Still be my vision O Ruler of all.

Confession:

St John says, ‘dear friends,

let us love one another, for love comes from God.

Everyone loves who has been born of God and knows God.’

Therefore, let us confess our lack of love and seek forgiveness for our sin

**Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ**

**We confess that we have sinned**

**In thought, word and deed.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart.**

**We have not loved our neighbour as ourselves.**

**In your mercy forgive what we have been**

**Help us to amend what we are**

**And direct what we shall be;**

**That we may do justly, love mercy**

**And walk humbly with you, our God.**

**Amen.**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,

Have mercy upon us,

Pardon and deliver us from all our sins,

Confirm and strengthen us in all goodness

And keep us in eternal life;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Love as a fruit of the Spirit:

Hymn: How deep the Father’s love for us

How deep the Father's love for us,

How vast beyond all measure

That He should give His only Son

To make a wretch His treasure

How great the pain of searing loss,

The Father turns His face away

As wounds which mar the chosen One,

Bring many sons to glory

Behold the Man upon a cross,

My sin upon His shoulders

Ashamed I hear my mocking voice,

Call out among the scoffers

It was my sin that held Him there

Until it was accomplished

His dying breath has brought me life

I know that it is finished

I will not boast in anything

No gifts, no power, no wisdom

But I will boast in Jesus Christ

His death and resurrection

Why should I gain from His reward?

I cannot give an answer

But this I know with all my heart

His wounds have paid my ransom

Authentic love:

Chorus: Make me a channel

Make me a channel of your peace

Where there is hatred let me bring your love

Where there is injury your pardon Lord

And where there’s doubt true faith in you

Make me a channel of your peace

Where there’s despair in life let me bring hope

Where there is darkness only light

And where there’s sadness ever joy

O Master grant that I may never seek

So much to be consoled as to console

To be understood as to understand

To be loved as to love with all my soul

Make me a channel of your peace

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned

In giving to all men that we receive

And in dying that we’re born to eternal life.

Prayers:

We draw our prayers to a close with the prayer our Lord taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us**

**And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil**

**For thine is the kingdom the power and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.**

Closing Hymn: When I survey

When I survey the wondrous cross

On which the Prince of glory died

My richest gain I count but loss

And pour contempt on all my pride

Forbid it Lord that I should boast

Save in the death of Christ my God

All the vain things that charm me most

I sacrifice them to his blood

See from his head his hands his feet

Sorrow and love flow mingled down

Did e’er such love and sorrow meet

Or thorns compose so rich a crown

Were the whole realm of nature mine

That were an offering far too small

Love so amazing so divine

Demands my soul my life my all

Blessing:

The Lord bless you and watch over you

The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you

The Lord look kindly on you and give you peace;

And the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

Be with you all this day and for ever more. **Amen.**