

**Preaching Christ....
...by the power of the Holy Spirit
...and the authority of the Word of God**

Date: 1 November 2020
Services: *Across the Diocese*
Series: One off – All Saints Day
Passage: 1 John 3:1-3
Outline: **Loved**
Hated
Purified

INTRODUCTION

- All **saints**, because we are **ALL** / **saints**!
- I'm not sure whether that is **news** to you – but if you have come to Jesus in **repentance** and **trust**, you are a **saint**!
- Let's be absolutely clear – being a saint has **NOTHING** to do with whether you're a
 - Nice person
 - Have proven yourself to do two miracles
 - Are famous in the church
 - Whether people say about you because you picked up some shopping for Mrs Smith down the road... 'oh she's a real saint'!
- **Why** are you a saint then? – if you have repented and put your trust in Jesus?
- Because '**saint**' means '**holy one**' ...
- So...; if you have **repented** and put your trust in **Jesus**, you **are** **HOLY** because the Lord Jesus has **made** you **holy** – he has borne your **UNholiness** on the **cross**... he has **removed** your unholiness – he has **dealt** with anything that would **cut** you off from **God**...
- ...and you have been **set apart by** God to be **his**...!
- "All Saints Day" celebrates this **great reality**... and that over all time, we have an **amazing connection** with **all the saints** who have gone **before** us who now **rest** from their **labours**... and all the saints still **alive** today around the **globe**...
- It's a **massive concept**...
- Have a look around you here today... or imagine the 500 or so people who will watch this sermon via video or DVD... all those who have **repented** and now trust **Jesus**, are **bound together** by that **reality** for **eternity** – and we are **eternally connected** with everyone who has gone BEFORE us who has **repented** and **trusted Jesus**...
- We stand as **ONE together** before the **throne** of **God's grace**... we stand in **awe**... in **wonder**... in **gratitude**... in **humility**... in **joy**!!!
- Happy All **Saints day**!!!!!!! ///
- In my remaining minutes, I'm going to take you to the **Epistle** reading this morning from 1 John 3 if you'd like to have that open in front of you... and it's a **brilliant** reading for **All Saints day**...
- At the **heart** of the passage is the great **love** of God... for it is **by** his love that we have all become **saints**...
- Let me look with you at this passage under three headings...
 - **Loved**
 - **Hated**
 - **Purified**

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1. **LOVED**

- Have a look with me at v1 - *See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!*
- Have you ever considered how **wonderful** it is that we should not only be **called** God's children but **MADE** God's children!?!? //
- You remember the words we often hear at Christmas from John chapter 1 – that Jesus came to his **own people** but they received him **not** – but whoever DID receive him, who **believed** on his name – ie – **trusted him** - *those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become **children of God*** – John 1:12 – children **born of God** – verse 13!!
- **Unworthy – undeserving....** Still **enemies** we read in Romans 5 – when Christ **died** for us...
- ...but **made** children – by **adoption** and **grace** as the old Anglican **prayer says!**
- What **love** has been lavished on us!!
- For some reason when I think of something being lavished on something – I think of the cream lavished on one of Susan's **pavlovas....!!**
- But how **can** THAT illustration do **justice** to what **God** is talking about **here...**
- **Love** lavished on us – **piled up – running over...** more that what is **needed** but **piled on...//**
- **That's** the love God has for you... /
- How does Psalm 40 put it? *He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and have me a firm place to stand.*
- *While we were still sinners Christ died for us* – Romans 5
- *For God SO loved YOU that he gave his one and only Son so that when YOU believe in him, you will not perish, but have eternal life...* John 3:16
- How does Paul put it in Galatians 4? - *God sent his Son, born of woman, born under law, to redeem those under the law, that we **might receive the full rights of sons.***
- Rescued – that we might receive full rights as **children!**
- This **love** God has for his people – goes right back of course to his love for the chosen nation of **Israel** – often referred to as God's **Son....**
- ...so in the Old Testament book of **Dueteronomy** we read - *The Lord did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other people... But it was because the Lord **loved** you.* Dueteronomy 7:7-8
- You might find it hard to **accept** that you are **so loved** by **God...**
- You may not have **thought** about it much before...
- ...or you feel **unworthy...**
- ...or you are only too aware of your **sin** and **failing...**
- ...or you might have **self-esteem issues** and assume **no one** can **love** you... /
- But I can assure everyone **watching** today – **YOU ARE LOVED... so deeply** loved by God – that he sent his **SON** Jesus for **YOU** – he has **lavished** his love on **you** and made you his own **precious, treasured, valued, CHILD!! ///**
- **Revel** in that love **today!!**
- Love – **lavished** on us...

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- When I was in **third year** at **Bible** college, I had to preach in chapel and then be subjected to a **rigorous** critique time by a lecturer and some peers...
- In case you were wondering, this is what I **looked** like at the **time**... !!
- I could preach on whatever **passage** I **liked**... and I chose **this** one because of its focus on the **love** of **God**...
- The lecturer who was involved in the sermon critique seemed quite **disappointed** in the **sermon**...
- ...he said, and I still remember it, "After the first 10 minutes, all we'd heard was that God loves us...!!
- And I thought to myself – is that a **bad** thing?
- To the contrary... that is **exactly** the impact I **wanted** after 10 minutes – that people **realised** how **deeply** and **profoundly** they are **loved** by **God**...
- If that was a seriously bad mistake in preaching... I'm aiming to make that same **terrible mistake again today**...
- Because I want you to **realise** the **profound nature** of God's **love** for **you**.... //
- People **crave** love don't they...
- Research on life time **criminals**, often demonstrates that one of the reasons people move into a life of crime is because of a **lack of love**... and looking for **acceptance**... - at least if they can join with other criminals and live on the edge with them... they might just find a sense of being **valued**... of **belonging**...
- People who have grown up knowing they are **loved**... very **different outcome**...
- Here is how Paul describes the love of God in Ephesians 3 - *I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how **wide** and **long** and **high** and **deep** is the love of Christ,¹⁹ and to **know** this love that **surpasses knowledge**—that you may be **filled** to the **measure** of all the **fullness of God**.*
- I want **YOU** friend, to know this **love** that **surpasses knowledge**...
- Love... **lavished** on **you**...
- So that you are set **part** in the world as **God's own child**... // ///
- But we cannot help but notice... that God's **love** for us, singles us out in the world...
- So second – though loved by God... it also means we are

2. HATED

- ...by the world... have a look with me at the third part of v1 - *The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.*
- We have this **incredible position** and **privilege** of being the **very loved children** of **God**...
- ...but you walk down the street of your **town**... and no one **knows**...
- We don't **shine**, we don't have **halos**....
- There's no **sign** across our **foreheads**...
- We are **children** of the **Almighty Majestic all powerful most merciful one and only God of the universe**...
- ...and **no one knows**...
- Jesus puts it a little **stronger** – hence the heading of this section 'hated' ... Jesus said in John 15:18ff - *"If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. 19 If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you."*

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- And we are thereby **connected** around the **globe** with everyone who has **repented and trusts Jesus** – and are **similarly saints** – God’s very own **children** – **lavished** with his **love**...!
- ...and connected with everyone in the **past** who are saints...because they **repented and trusted Jesus**... who are now already in Jesus’ **presence**...
- ...that is what we acknowledge in the creed when we say we believe in the **communion of saints**... the **fellowship** – the **connection** of all saints over **all time past and present** and even **future**...!
- **Revel** in God’s grace to you **saints**....
- And if you’re watching this with someone else today – be sure to refer to them as **saints**.... Saint **Carla**... Saint **David**... Saint **Lyn**... Saint **Rob**, Saint **Patty**... **whatever**...!!
- But there’s **one more thing** to point **out** from this **passage**...
- right at the **end**...
- *All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.*
- With the end goal in mind – that we will one day be **purified** in the **presence** of **Jesus**...
- ...we **get on** with it **now**... we purify ourselves...
- ...we don’t tolerate **impurity** in our **lives**...
- We don’t tolerate.... **Smutty jokes**... and **riské films**...
- We don’t tolerate **bad language** and **gossip** or **greed**...
- We don’t tolerate holding **grudges** and **cutting off communication**...
- No... we **purify** ourselves... just as he is **pure**....
- ...and in his way, the Apostle’s Peter’s exhortation, in his first letter chapter 2, might be seen among us... and have a deep impact on the world in which we live... Listen carefully:
- *Live such **good** lives among the **pagans** – pure lives – holy lives – lives that match the saints – the holy ones that you’ve been made.... *Live such pure lives among the pagans that though they **accuse** you of doing **wrong**, they actually may **see** your **good deeds** and **glorify God** on the **day** he **visits us**. (1 Peter 2:12).**
- Saints – may that be true of us as we live in today’s world
- We don’t walk down the street with a halo, or a badge or a sign, but if we are purifying ourselves, to live the life of the saint, then.... People may just see our good deeds, and glorify God. Amen.