

Enduring Principles
#3 WORTH OF ALL PERSONS
“All Are loved”

WELCOME

We come together to celebrate a truth that is at the heart of our faith: that every person has worth, dignity, and a place in God’s love. Here, all are invited, regardless of age, background, or life journey, to experience community, peace, and the joy of being fully known and valued.

May this time together remind us that in God’s eyes, we are all precious, and that our call is to honour and uplift one another as we walk this path of faith together.”

PLAY COFCHRIST YOUNG ADULT SOCIAL MEDIA POST – WORTH OF ALL PERSONS

<https://youtube.com/shorts/gRmNNGqkQ4U>

OPENING PRAYER

God of boundless love,

You have woven each of us in your image, breathed life into our bodies, and called us good. Open our hearts today to see your reflection in one another. May this worship honour the worth of every soul and draw us deeper into your reconciling grace.

Amen.

HYMN – All are Welcome - CCS 276

PRAYER FOR PEACE:-

God of all people, We come before You with hearts longing for peace—in our lives, in our communities, and in our world. Teach us to see every person as You see them: valuable, loved, and worthy of respect.

Help us to be instruments of Your peace. Where there is conflict, let us bring understanding. Where there is fear, let us bring courage. Where there is exclusion, let us bring welcome. Where there is injustice, let us bring action.

May our words, our choices, and our deeds reflect Your love, so that every person we meet feels seen, valued, and included.

Give us the strength to forgive, the humility to listen, and the wisdom to act for peace in all circumstances.

We pray for a world where all people are honoured, where diversity is celebrated, and where Your justice and compassion reign.

Amen.

HYMN:- Lord make us instruments of Peace -CCS 364

SCRIPTURE: Doctrine and Covenants 165:3a (Community of Christ):

“God weeps for the poor, displaced, mistreated, and diseased of the world because of their unnecessary suffering. Such conditions are not God’s will. Open your ears to hear the pleading of mothers and fathers in all nations who desperately seek a future of hope for their children.”

SERMON: Seeing as God Sees – The Worth of All Persons

So, I want you all to think for a second: When was the last time you really felt seen? Not just “hello, how are you?” but genuinely noticed and valued. And now, think about the opposite: When did you feel invisible or left out? That feeling stays with you, doesn’t it, and it hurts?

That’s what today’s message is about. Affirming the worth of all people means recognising that God sees every single person as important, valuable, and equal. It’s not just a nice idea or a quote on a poster, it’s something we should live out in how we treat people every day, and not just friends, strangers and yes even people that annoy us.

I’ll be honest, this isn’t always easy. We can be very judgmental. People get judged by their jobs, what they wear, who they know, how much money they have. We compare ourselves and each other all the time. But God doesn’t see it like that. God sees the heart and soul of the person underneath all of that and values them completely and most importantly equally.

In the Community of Christ, we try to live this out in lots of ways:

- In worship, we try to use inclusive language, so everyone feels welcome.
- Anyone can lead prayers, preach, or take part in sacraments, it’s not just for members.
- The Lord’s Supper is open to everyone, because everyone is invited to experience God’s love.
- We hear stories and testimonies from all kinds of people, which helps us remember that everyone’s life matters.

- We intentionally listen to those who might get ignored, because their voices are important.
- And we try to highlight justice and peace, because faith isn't just about feelings, it's about action.
- We also welcome LGBTQ+ people, supporting them in leadership and worship wherever the law allows.

There are probably more besides that you can think of, we are an inclusive church who value the worth of all persons.

How often do you find yourself wondering, 'How can I live this out? How can I make this real in my life?' Each time, let your heart be drawn back to Jesus.

Think about what Jesus did. He didn't just talk about love; he lived it every single day. He touched the untouchable, healed the sick, fed the hungry, forgave the guilty, welcomed children, and even shared meals with people everyone else ignored. He saw the worth in people who had been written off by society, who were lonely, excluded, or overlooked and he treated them with dignity, respect, and care.

Jesus' actions weren't random acts of kindness. They were a deliberate choice to see as God sees. He consistently reached out to the poor, the outcasts, the marginalised, and the misunderstood. He showed that worth is not earned or measured by achievement, popularity, wealth, or status. It is equal for every person.

So, if we truly want to live out the worth of all persons, we need to ask ourselves: How will we act? Will we reach out to the lonely? Stand with the oppressed? Speak up for those being treated unfairly? Every small action matters. A smile to someone who feels invisible. A kind word when the world criticises. Listening to someone whose voice is usually ignored. Including someone who feels left out. These are not small gestures in God's eyes, they are ways of reflecting God's love, ways of seeing as God sees.

Living like this isn't always easy. It can be uncomfortable, it can be challenging, and sometimes it goes against what our instincts tell us. But that's exactly what makes it transformative. Every time we affirm someone's worth, we are participating in God's work of restoration and love in the world. We are helping build a community where everyone can feel seen, heard, and valued.

Jesus' life shows us that the worth of every person is non-negotiable. It is not something to be earned, judged, or measured. It simply exists, because God says so. And when we live like that, when we choose to act with compassion, inclusion, and love, we begin to reflect God's heart in a world that so often forgets.

So, this week, I challenge each of you to put on God's glasses: Who needs to be seen? Who needs to be heard? Who needs to know they matter? And do something

about it. Small actions, big love, freely given, that's what it means to live out the worth of all persons.

Let us go from here inspired by Jesus, to love fully, to notice those who are overlooked, to stand with those who are marginalised, and to affirm the worth of everyone we meet. Because every person matters to God, and they should matter to us too.

HYMN:– Is there one who feels unworthy - CCS 526

You Tube **VIDEO:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hzgzim5m7oU>

Before using videos in public worship please check you have the relevant licenses – see notes on YouTube link.

ACTIVITY

In Community of Christ, we proclaim the worth of all persons, but we often forget to tell each other how we see that worth.

We are now going to take time to affirm one another, not with long speeches, but with small, simple, powerful words of truth.

- Hand out Sticky notes and pens
- Invite people to first affirm themselves and stick that sticky note on themselves.

Some of the examples you could write are – kind heart, you are brave, you are worthy, you are loved.

- Then walk around and affirm others by sticking notes onto them, obviously with consent and respect.

We will do this between 5-10 minutes as we listen to some music, we will then come back together and read the sticky notes.

- How did it feel to receive these affirmations?
- Was it harder to give or receive them?
- What does this activity teach us about seeing others through God's eyes?

These notes are just a glimpse of the truth: You are seen, you are known, you are loved by this community, and by God.

(It is optional to include Communion at this point)

As we move into our time of Communion, let us carry these affirmations in our hearts, and remember that Christ's table is the ultimate affirmation of our worth. All are welcome, all are beloved.

COMMUNION HYMN: For everyone born – CCS 285

COMMUNION

We gather at this table remembering Jesus, who welcomed all, healed the broken, and loved without condition. Here, there is no requirement to be perfect, no credentials to prove, no one excluded.

As we share this bread and cup, we celebrate that every person is of infinite worth in God's sight, regardless of age, ability, race, background, or identity. God's love is not limited, and neither is our invitation to belong.

This meal reminds us that the body of Christ includes everyone. As we partake, let us commit to seeing and affirming the inherent dignity of all people. Let this bread strengthen us to reach out in kindness, the cup deepens our courage to stand for justice, and both remind us that God's vision is a world where all are valued, included, and loved.

Take and eat. Drink and remember you belong, you matter, you are loved.

HYMN:- Come Holy Spirit Come - CCS 154

All are welcome at Christ's table. The Lord's Supper, or Communion, is a sacrament in which we remember the life, death, resurrection, and continuing presence of Jesus Christ. In Community of Christ, we also experience Communion as an opportunity to renew our baptismal covenant and to be formed as disciples who live Christ's mission. Others might have different or added understandings within their faith traditions. We invite all who participate in the Lord's Supper to do so in the love and peace of Jesus Christ.

Prayer of Blessing for the Bread and wine

Serve Bread

Serve Wine

DISCIPLES' GENEROUS RESPONSE

Your generosity truly transforms lives. Together, through your gifts, we can bring peace, hope, and joy to those who need it most. Every donation strengthens Christ's

mission, our mission and gives us opportunities to make a real, lasting difference in the world.

In the British Isles, Dunfield House has been a cherished sanctuary for 60 years. Its motto, "How Good the World Can Be", reflects the very spirit of the refuge it provides. This year, our Leadership Team asked: "Who might benefit from this special place?" That simple question inspired us to take a risk and try something new.

We partnered with the Manchester Bangladeshi Women's Organisation, a woman-led group supporting disadvantaged women and girls, many of whom are survivors of domestic abuse or face mental health challenges. Together, we gave some of these women the chance to spend a few days at Dunfield.

The impact on the group has been truly transforming:

- Fajana, a volunteer, shared: "In 24 years, I'd never stayed a night away from home. This was three nights. Now I dream of Dunfield House. Last night I dreamed about it!"

- Naieema, another volunteer, said: "I've lived in Manchester 9 years, and I've never been to the countryside. When we saw the place, Wow! Just Wow! I tried English food for the first time and loved it. On the last night, we danced, sang, had hot chocolate, and a henna party. I definitely want to go again."

- Sadika, a staff member, observed: "Most of these women never sleep well, never have holidays, and many have never been in a swimming pool. But at Dunfield, they were relaxed, joyful, and carefree. They experienced peace, laughter, and community they could not afford anywhere else."

The women are already planning a return visit. In a world where funding is limited, these experiences remind us that generosity is more than financial—it is about creating moments that heal, inspire, and change lives.

Your generosity matters because it makes moments like these possible. Through your gifts, others can experience communities of love, joy, hope, and peace. Through your generosity, Christ's mission becomes tangible and real. Together, we can continue to bring peace, hope, and transformation into people's lives, one holiday, one safe space, one community at a time.

Please give generously as we sing our closing hymn

HYMN: - We are a family of faith - CCS 350

SENDING FORTH

Go now, remembering that every person you meet is of worth. Go with eyes that see beyond status, appearance, or circumstance, and hearts that reflect God's love.

Let your words, actions, and choices affirm the worth of all people. Reach out to those who feel invisible, stand with those treated unfairly, and include those who are often overlooked.

As you leave this place, carry Jesus' example with you: love fully, freely, and fiercely. Be a presence of welcome, hope, and affirmation in your communities.

Go in peace, empowered by God's Spirit, to see as God sees and to live the worth of all persons in your everyday life.