

DIACONAL SUNDAY

February 23, 2014

Celebrating witness expressed through service (diakonia) and leadership offered by the ELCIC's diaconal ministers.

But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. —Matthew 5:44

Children's Chat

Greet the children who come up.

Open with discussion about what it is like to serve God and serve God's people. Share a story about serving and invite the kids to think of a way they serve/help those around them. I'm sure each child has a story, given the chance to share.

Ask the children if it was easy for them to serve/help. Who was it they were helping? Was it a loved one? Was it someone they did not know? Was it an enemy?

Read the Matthew text for today (Matthew 5:38 – 48).

Jesus is asking his followers to not only love the people who are easy to love—friends, family. But also those who are hard to love—people who hurt us. People who are mean to us. This is not an easy thing to do. It's not easy for you and it's not easy for us grown-ups.

Jesus tells us that by serving our loved ones and our enemies, then we are doing God's work.

Can you think of some people who you could help who maybe wouldn't expect your help? Who are some people in your life who would be surprised by your service?

God wants us to treat everyone we meet as our neighbour. Our friend. I hope we can each do that today and every day.

Let's pray.

*Dear Jesus,
Help us to look for people to serve. Those we know and love; and those who might be surprised by our help. Help us to be like you, serving all our neighbours around us.
Amen.*

—Prepared by Deacon Gretchen Peterson

