

You are worth it – a prayer of praise and confession

God who turns the world's values up-side-down,
we think of our world
where un-needed luxuries
are sold with promises
of increasing our feelings of self-worth.
And we thank you that you love each one of us
here and now, as we are.

God who turns the world's values up-side-down,
we think of our world
where beauty's secret,
we are told,
is hidden in a jar of face cream.
And we thank you that beauty comes from within
and is a reflection of your love for us.

God who turns the world's values up-side-down,
we think of our world
where love is shown
by the size of the bouquet,
or packaging of the chocolates.
And we thank you that your love is shown
in flesh and blood, community and stories.

God who turns the world's values up-side-down,
forgive us when we look to the world
to find our self-worth,
forgive us when we value others,
according to their looks, or their age, or their mobile phone.
And we thank you that we receive your forgiveness and your love
and hear you say to us, 'You are worth it!'
Amen.

The Way of Love

If I speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy but don't love, I'm nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate.

If I speak God's Word with power, revealing all his mysteries and making everything plain as day, and if I have faith that says to a mountain, "Jump," and it jumps, but I don't love, I'm nothing.

If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don't love, I've gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love.

Love never gives up.
Love cares more for others than for self.
Love doesn't want what it doesn't have.
Love doesn't strut,
Doesn't have a swelled head,
Doesn't force itself on others,
Isn't always "me first,"
Doesn't fly off the handle,
Doesn't keep score of the sins of others,
Doesn't revel when others grovel,
Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth,
Puts up with anything,
Trusts God always,
Always looks for the best,
Never looks back,
But keeps going to the end.

amen

Valentine's prayer of response

Dave & James

At the entrance to the supermarket, a woman stands
with a collecting tin and a box of fabric daffodils
reminding us that life is not always
a bed of roses or a box of chocolates.

So as we gather today,
we pause to remember those who will find today difficult
due to illness and side effects from toxic treatments
or waiting for the results of the latest tests.

As we pass the advertising hording,
we see a heart-shaped chocolate box
with a boxing glove instead of a chocolate
reminding us that romantic love is not all it is cracked up to be.

So as we gather,
we pause to remember those who will find today difficult,
where relationships are broken or full of pain
or where our search for love leaves us feeling rejected and alone.

In the florists we see a loved-one's favourite flower
or a wreath of white flowers that spell out a name;
a son's giant-sized photo on the side of a pub,
the words, 'our hero', surrounded by red poppies.

And as we gather,
we pause to remember those who will find today difficult,
those whose loved ones are no longer with us
but are held in your eternal embrace.

God dries our tears,
and smiling, reaches out to take our hand ,
to soothe and caress our broken lives
and slowly make us laugh again.

Amen.

