

Wednesday Word

In reflection on the message for Sunday 29th January 2023.
Call to worship; Psalm 15.

Extracts from Luke, 4 v21-30, **Jesus Rejected at Nazareth**
v21; **Jesus began by saying to them,**

“Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

v22: **All spoke well of him, amazed at his gracious words,**
“Isn’t this Joseph’s son?” they asked.

v23: **Jesus said to them, “Surely you will quote this proverb to me:**
‘Physician heal yourself’ and you will tell me,

‘Do here in your hometown what we have heard you did in Capernaum.’”

v24: **“Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in his hometown.”**

v28f: **All the people in the synagogue were furious. They got up,**
drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill,
in order to throw him off the cliff.

v30: **But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.**

Extracts from 1 Corinthians 13, v 1-13, **Love is Indispensable.**

Paul writes: And yet I will show you the most excellent way.

v1: **If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love,**
I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.

v2: **If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge**
and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love,
I am nothing. ...

v4-10: Paul expounds the qualities and benefits and wonder of Love.

v11: **When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child.**
When I became a man, I put the ways of children behind me.”

v13: **And now these three remain:**

Faith, Hope and Love.

But the greatest of these is Love.

Talk: **Outside the box with Love.** In our lives, we experience a repetitive routine of events which become commonplace and stereotyped in our minds. We develop an unchanging viewpoint of matters and events in which we are involved. So, in the Luke Reading, the Nazarenes see Jesus simply as Joseph’s son and not as the promised Saviour of the Jews. They could not see the Love, ‘outside the box’, beyond their preconception of Jesus. **We must step outside our comfort box** to see that Jesus’s Love is much deeper and stronger than we thought. Paul guides us about Jesus’s Love in his verses in 1 Corinthians.