

Sermon: John 14,15–21 – All you need is love

You hear the song, and it sounds so certain: All You Need Is Love. No hesitation. No doubt. Just one clear message. And we want to agree. But if we're honest—life has already taught us that love alone is not always enough. And yet—we know it's not that simple.

Because love can be fragile. Love can grow tired. Love has limits.

And right into that reality, Jesus speaks—in the Gospel of John:

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”

That doesn't sound like a song. It sounds... demanding.

But maybe that's because when we hear the word “love,” we often mean something different than Jesus does.

In Greek—the language of the New Testament—there isn't just one word for love.

There is *eros*—passionate, emotional love.
There is *philia*—friendship, closeness, mutual care.
And then there is *agape*.

That's the word Jesus uses here. *Agape* is more than a feeling. It's a way of being. A commitment. A love that remains—even when it's hard.

A love that doesn't first ask, “What do I feel?”
but, “What does the other need?”

And maybe, deep down, that's exactly the kind of love we long for.

Today is **Mother's Day**.

For some, it's a warm and joyful day. For others, it carries grief, distance, or complicated memories.

Not every story of motherhood is easy. Not every relationship is whole.

And still—when we think of what “motherly love” can be at its best, we catch a glimpse of *agape*.

A love that shows up—even at 3 a.m. A love that carries before we can walk.
A love that gives without calculating return. A love that stays.

And yet—even that love has limits. Even that love can be exhausted. Even that love is human.

And that's where today's Sunday speaks: **Rogate—Pray**.

Pray. Which means: You don't have to produce this kind of love on your own. You don't have to force yourself to be what you cannot be by yourself. You are invited to ask.

Because Jesus says: “I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate.”

The Spirit. The presence of God with you.

So in the middle of our limited, sometimes broken love, God comes close.

And maybe this is the deep connection between love and prayer: Prayer is where we come with empty hands.

Where we can say: I’m not always patient.
Not always loving. Not always who I want to be.

And God says: I know. And that’s why I come to you.

“I will not leave you orphaned.” What a powerful word—especially today.

You are not alone. Not left to yourself. Not cut off from love.

You are held. And now the song sounds different. “All you need is love”—
yes. But this love is not just something we create. It is something we receive.

In prayer. In trust. Through the Spirit. And slowly—quietly—something changes:

We become able to love where we couldn’t before.

We stay where we might have walked away.

We forgive where we wanted to hold on.

Not perfectly. But sustained.

Maybe we could say it like this:

The world sings:
“All you need is love.”

Rogate answers:
“Then ask for it.”

And Jesus says:
“And I will give it to you.”

A love that remains.
A love that carries.
A love stronger than anything that separates us.

This love has a name.

Christ.

Amen.