

Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149; Rom 13:8-14; Matt 18:15-20    The Rev. Linda Spiers  
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost – Year A – Sept 10, 2017 Trinity Episcopal Church

Love, love, love, love, love, love, love, love, love.

There's nothing you can do that can't be done.

Nothing you can sing that can't be sung.

Nothing you can say, but you can learn

How to play the game

It's easy.

Nothing you can make that can't be made.

No one you can save that can't be saved.

Nothing you can do, but you can learn

How to be you in time

It's easy.

All you need is love, all you need is love,

All you need is love, love. Love is all you need.

Love, love, love, love, love, love, love, love, love.

All you need is love, all you need is love,

All you need is love, love. Love is all you need.

There's nothing you can know that isn't known.

Nothing you can see that isn't shown.

There's nowhere you can be that isn't where

You're meant to be

It's easy.

All you need is love...<sup>1</sup>

You may recognize those lyrics. They're from an old Beatles' song that may bring back memories for you, released in July 1967 and written by John Lennon. All you need is love. I don't know how Paul would have reacted to the Beatles and yet Paul's words "Love your neighbor as yourself. Love does no wrong to a neighbor, therefore love is the fulfilling of the law." (Romans 13:9b-10). Paul echoes what Jesus says, when he summarizes the law—love God and love your neighbor. All you need is love.

Paul's message is simple and profound. The Beatles' message is simple and profound. Love is the essence of discipleship and apostleship. Paul takes that simplicity a little further by inviting us to put on new clothes. Take a look at the clothes we wear and put on the Lord Jesus Christ. Here's where Paul really starts to get complex. Put on the armor of light—bring light into our darkened and broken world. It doesn't matter how young or how old we are, we're invited to try on those new clothes. If indeed love is at the core of who we are, putting on new clothes that bring light and honor to all that we do and all that we are may be easy.

With love, There's nothing you can do that can't be done.

Nothing you can sing that can't be sung.

Nothing you can say, but you can learn

How to play the game

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.metrolyrics.com/all-you-need-is-love-lyrics-beatles.html>.

It's easy.

Nothing you can make that can't be made.

No one you can save that can't be saved.

Nothing you can do, but you can learn

How to be you in time

It's easy.

Consider those new clothes. Where might you bring light into the world around you? We come into community to learn how to love—to love your neighbor as yourself. I believe as that kind of love sifts in and through us, we discover together how to put on those new clothes. We need each other to be mirrors to see how the clothes fit, so that when we head out of the door, we're ready to take that light into our world, which desperately needs it. Be ready, for your light is needed wherever you're planted. Maybe it's easy and maybe it's not!