

# Advent Reading 2018: Love

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Good morning I'm \_\_\_\_\_ and this is my friend \_\_\_\_\_. This is the third Sunday of Advent. This morning we are focusing on God's love.

The prophet Isaiah wrote about God's giving... <sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born, to us a son is given..."

The apostle John wrote about God's giving as well... <sup>16</sup> "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Love is an idea best understood by looking at God's actions. Since God is love, everything God does is an expression of love. Love is all about seeking the wellbeing of others even if it is costly and they are undeserving. Love does. Love chooses. Love gives. Jesus is God's giving us Himself, the fullness of His love, in order to provide for our wellbeing.

Since Jesus is Emmanuel – God With Us – you can understand what it is to express love by knowing Jesus and His life. Jesus is love animated. Jesus loved God. Jesus loved His neighbor. Everywhere Jesus went, every word Jesus said, every touch of Jesus hands, were exhibitions of love. Truly, He taught us to love one another.

Jesus loved the poor. Jesus loved the marginalized. Jesus loved the self-righteous and wealthy. Jesus' love compelled Him to restore what was broken, offer what was needed, experience our isolation, and take up the sins of the world, so others could find fullness of life.

The Apostle John also wrote... "This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins."

Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Light the 3<sup>rd</sup> Candle.