

# A Word on Wednesday from Pastor Tonia

## "God of Love" 12/14/22

*But I am giving you a new command. You must love each other, just as I have loved you. If you love each other, everyone will know you are My disciples. (John 13:34-35)*

This is the last week of our journey through the season of Advent, during this month we have watched the story of the coming of the Christ Child unfold. This is a time to prepare, a time to anticipate, a time to remember, a season of love. Advent, the nights are long and dark, but they will be getting shorter soon. There are storms, but we hold on to the promise of a glorious sunrise. Of a new day. Of a new light, one which will shine on us, will show us the way, will be The Way.

We see His star and with hope, peace, and joy we step out into the dark and are bathed in the love God brings to us during stormy weather. We await the coming of the Christ Child, a babe born in a manger. God's gift of love. God created us in love, He keeps our world spinning, the rain falling and the sun shining.

God is love. If we love others, we will be one with God in our hearts, and He will be one with us. In 1<sup>st</sup> John (4:16) we are told there is only one God, and we are to love and serve Him. Our lives are to reflect His love through word and deed, how we act and react, how we treat one another. This is big, it is not always easy, but it is always right and good.

To show us His love, God came to earth as a human. He did not come to a royal family, though He came through the royal line of David. He did not arrive at the palace, in the center of town, to a Queen. God's Son was born in a lowly stable, outside of town, to a woman named Mary. He was not greeted by a brass band; however, He was announced when the sky filled with a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God. He came in an unexpected way, to the regular people as well as to the powerful. He came to live, laugh, and love as one of us.

God loved us so much. He came to work with His hands, to touch the outcasts, to feed the hungry, and to care for those in need. God so loved the world He came to be abandoned and to die on a cross. But His love was so great - the tomb could not hold Him, and He lives forever.

Through His love, shown to us in His life, death, and resurrection, He gives to us the loving gift of forgiveness. This is the gift which frees us to live, to love, and to serve our neighbors. For this gift of love, we give thanks and sing carols reminding us we do not dismay, remembering Christ the Savior was born on Christmas day. He came to save us all from Satan's power when we when have gone astray. Giving to us tiding of comfort and joy.

This may have sounded more like an Easter word, than a Christmas word, but they are part and parcel of the love of God, reminding us that during this time of Advent, we are alive through the love of God.

**Please pray with me.**

God of love. Thank you. Amen.