

Read, Reflect and Pray

God is LOVE

Read: 1 John 4 v 7 – 21. Dear Friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 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. No-one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and His love is made complete in us. This is how we know that we live in Him and He in us; He has given us of His Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent His Son to be the Saviour of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. **God is Love.** Whoever lives in love lives in God and God in them. This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgement: in this world we are like Jesus. There is no fear in love. But perfect loves drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. We love because He first loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. And He has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

Reflect:

'God IS love' not merely 'God is loving'

Romans 8 v 37 onwards reminds us that nothing, absolutely nothing, has the power to separate us from God's love.

'God loves each of us as if there were only one of us' (Augustine)

John 3 v 16 shows us the depth and the purpose of God's love.

'I love you big, this much', a little child will say and stretch his arms out wide;

So Baby Christ grew up to love that way when on the Cross He died' (author unknown).

1 John 4 v 11 says 'Since God so loved us we also ought to love one another' What is the depth of my love for my family? My friends? But also for the stranger? The homeless? The marginalised? The one who has hurt me? Or the one who has hurt someone I love?. God who IS love demonstrated that love on a cross. I am bidden to be loving. How am I putting this into action? 1 John 3 v 18 'Let us not love with words or speech but with actions & in truth'.

Pray:

'Such love, pure as the whitest snow;

Such love weeps for the shame I know;

Such love, paying the debt I owe;

O Jesus, such love!

'God of Love, fill my heart with the

desire to let your love flow through

me to all whose lives touch mine,

especially to Amen.