



APC Advent Devotional – December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020

### **God's Love and Ours**

***Today's Scripture: 1 John 4:7-16 (NIV)***

2020 has been a year when showing love has not been easy. Our media has been full of images, from across the world, of hatred, injustice, inequality & intolerance. The issues that disunite us have never been portrayed as more obvious, more personal or more hostile.

Even in the midst of a global pandemic, humanity seems to have been obsessed with focusing on the things that divide us, both ideologically and physically, from families, friends, colleagues, schoolmates and our spiritual homes, rather than highlighting the common bonds of compassion, empathy, kindness and forgiveness.

In other words - LOVE.

However, it is exactly now, when the divisions seems so overwhelming and the path to reconciliation so obscured, that we should raise our voices in **HOPE !** To sing and to shout and to give witness that "Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God."

Therefore as we come to the end of 2020, let our collective prayer be one of HOPE that 2021 and beyond is a time of peace, understanding, respect; global reconciliation and LOVE.

In the words of 1 John 4:11-12:

"<sup>11</sup> Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us." Amen.

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