

# God is LOVE



**Call to Prayer** ALL: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Reading** Love is always patient and kind; it is never jealous; love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offence and is not resentful. Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins but delights in the truth; it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope and to endure whatever comes. ... In short, there are three things that last: faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13: 4-7, 13

**Reflection** I have a friend who says he'll argue the idea that *Love is blind*. Love, he says, is anything but blind. Love is vision. Love sees! I have to agree with this. Love can see for miles and miles. Love could transform our entire lives if we would let it make its home in us. This insight, of course, isn't new. Jesus, the man from Galilee, preached a gospel of love. And not only did He preach it, He lived it. He loved much. We are slow to catch on. Jesus also told us that God is love. And God, like love, can see for miles and miles into the innermost places of our hearts where everything that is *us* has its home.

God, like love, waits for us. If the name of God makes us nervous, we aren't told immediately that all of the love in our hearts, that part of us that hungers for goodness, is actually God living in us. But then, quietly, on some day when we find ourselves wondering where all this love that we feel came from, we are told gently: "It's Me – God! I've set up my tent in your heart. I'm the *One* who is all of the vision that you are. I'm the reason you see so well. I am vision. I am love. I am part of the *flow of life* that you are."

Let us remember then, that love is vision. And as our vision increases, so also will world-healing increase. Don't ever forget that love sees. And it's all because God has built a home in us.

**Hymn** "Where Charity and Love Prevail" verses 1, 2, 5



1. Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail,  
2. With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear  
3. For - give we now each oth - er's faults  
4. Let strife a - mong us be un - known,  
5. Let us re - call that in our midst  
6. No race nor creed can love ex - clude,



There God is ev - er found; Brought here to - geth - er  
God's char - i - ty we learn; Let us with heart and  
As we our faults con - fess; And let us love each  
Let all con - ten - tion cease; Be God's the glo - ry  
Dwells God's be - got - ten Son; As mem - bers of his  
If hon - ored be God's name; Our fam - i - ly em -



by Christ's love, By love are we thus bound.  
mind and soul Now love God in re - turn.  
oth - er well In Chris - tian ho - li - ness.  
that we seek, Be ours God's ho - ly peace.  
bod - y joined, We are in Christ made one.  
brac - es all Whose Fa - ther is the same.

Text: *Ubi caritas*; trans. by Omer Westendorf, 1916-1998  
Tune: CHRISTIAN LOVE, CM; Paul Benoit, OSB, 1893-1979  
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## God is LOVE (con't)

**Instructions** First, everyone together is invited to read, aloud, the following poem, as it is written.

Then, each person is invited to pray the poem a second time, silently, changing the word *love* to **God** and changing the pronouns accordingly.

Finally, each prays it silently, a third time. (This may be the hardest, though the most Incarnational.) Change *love* to **your own name** and change the pronouns to fit you.

**Poem** *Love* is not blind, *love* is vision.

It can see what microscopes have never seen.  
*Love* does not need a magnifying glass.

It has clear eyes that see forever.

You do not have to be afraid of *love's* presence.

You will not be used or taken lightly or ignored or laughed at.  
Your significance will be seen with the pure eye of truth.

*Love* needs no glasses -- though some people  
who are made of *love*, wear them.

Those glasses are to see earththings --  
things that will not last.

*Love* sees spirit things --  
the deep things of God that last forever.

You don't have to be afraid of loneliness  
in *love's* presence.

For *love* has a way of filling you up  
yet never smothering you.

*Love* does not greedily snatch you to itself.  
It breathes on you and gives you wings  
then lets you free.

*Love* does not tell you how to use your wings  
but it watches while you fly.

And because *love* sees,  
it can tell you every little movement of your flying,  
that needs to be improved, and it can tell you how.



*Love* watches and it knows because it sees.

*Love's* glance is sometimes gentle, sometimes stern.  
To fit your need, it falls on you like morning dew  
or a lightning bolt, but it is vision to the very end.

*Love* sees the things we dare not see  
because we are afraid of sight.

*Love* sees the things we try to hide  
because we are afraid of light.

*Love* is vision and *love* is not afraid.



## Intercessions

**Response: Thank you for your love, O God.**

+ for the call to be Ladies of Charity, that is Ladies of God,  
Ladies of Love, we pray ...

+for the gift of life that is an expression of God's love  
for each of us, we pray ...

+for Jesus, God's compelling, undeniable sign of love for us,  
we pray ...

+for our families, friends, collaborators and poor persons  
who give us an example of God's love, we pray ...

(Please, add your own prayers of thanksgiving.)

## Our Father

(Please, pray together.)



**Prayer ALL: God is love and those who abide  
in love, abide in God and God in them. Amen.**

(adapted 1 John 4: 16)

(adapted from Seasons of Your Heart, Macrina Wiederkehr, O.S.B.,  
pages 74-76)

prepared for the Ladies of Charity by Sr. Carol Schumer, D.C., February