

**God's Gift of Love**  
Fourth Sunday of Advent  
1 John 4:7-16

*"This is how God showed his love for us: God sent his only Son into the world so we might live through him. This is the kind of love we are talking about—not that we once upon a time loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to clear away our sins and the damage they've done to our relationship with God. My dear, dear friends, if God loved us like this, we certainly ought to love each other. No one has seen God, ever. But if we love one another, God dwells deeply within us, and his love becomes complete in us—perfect love!"*

1 John 4:9-12 (MSG)

Love isn't chiefly represented by \_\_\_\_\_ love for God so much as God's love \_\_\_\_\_ us.

Everything God is and does is an \_\_\_\_\_ of His love.

God \_\_\_\_\_ us as we are, \_\_\_\_\_ us as we are, and \_\_\_\_\_ in us to make us clean and whole and new.

God's loving intent is \_\_\_\_\_, or "perfected," only when that love is \_\_\_\_\_ out in relation to the rest of the church.

God's love reaches its \_\_\_\_\_ goal only when it creates a community of continuing love, when it becomes "God's love \_\_\_\_\_ us."

**3 ways to measure God's gift to us:**

1. Its \_\_\_\_\_
  - 1 John 4:9..... "So that we might live."
  - John 10:10
  - Our purpose is to live in a way that \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord.

2. Its \_\_\_\_\_

- 1 John 4:10
- God knew the price that had to be paid.
- God doesn't want our \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 Samuel 24:24

3. Its \_\_\_\_\_

- God's intent is to \_\_\_\_\_ our relationship with him.
- Result: the way we \_\_\_\_\_ should change.
- God is not \_\_\_\_\_ loving the world yet. He wants to \_\_\_\_\_ loving the world, and the way that God's love becomes \_\_\_\_\_ to the world is \_\_\_\_\_ you and me.
- Matthew 5:14-16