

# The Sacred Heart – An Invitation to Love

Throughout the gospels the constant invitation is to love: to love the outsider, the widow, those afflicted with sickness and disabilities, the sinners.... In fact we see Jesus transforming people's lives through meeting them as they were, loving them through word and touch, engendering hope. This feast, coming in the season after Pentecost, reminds us that our Baptismal responsibility is to allow the Spirit at the heart of our being to love through us in the very ordinary circumstances of each day. So the invitation today is to ponder this gift of love to be shared for the life of the world....

## Gathering Song:

### MY HEART

My heart is fixed upon you God,  
My heart is steadfast in your love,  
My heart at peace within your gaze,  
My heart at home in your embrace.

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## A reading from the gospel according to John

As the Father has loved me,  
so I have loved you.  
Remain in my love.  
If you keep the commandments  
you will remain in my love,  
just as I have kept my Father's commandments  
and remain in his love.  
I have told you this  
so that my own joy may be in you  
and your joy be complete.  
This is my commandment:  
Love one another,  
as I have loved you.

John 15: 9-12

**We see what this love looks like by watching Jesus in his daily interactions with others. Paul in his letter to the Corinthians breaks open the love Jesus is encouraging...**

If I have all the eloquence of people or of angels, but speak without love, I am simply a gong booming or a cymbal clashing. If I have the gift of prophecy, understanding all the mysteries there are, and knowing everything, and if I have faith in all its fullness, to move mountains, but without love, then I am nothing at all. If I give away all that I possess, piece by piece, and if I even let them take my body to burn it, but am without love, it will do me no good whatsoever.

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 and to hope, and to endure whatever comes.

Love does not come to an end. But if there are gifts of prophecy, the time will come when they must fail; or the gift of languages, it will not continue for ever; and knowledge – for this too, the time will come when it must fail. For our knowledge is imperfect and our prophesying is imperfect; but once perfection comes, all imperfect things will disappear.

When I was a child, I used to talk like a child, and think like a child, and argue like a child, but now I am mature, all childish ways are put behind me. Now we are seeing a dim reflection in a mirror; but then we shall be seeing face to face. The knowledge that I have now is imperfect; but then I shall know as fully as I am known.

In short there are three things that last: faith, hope, and love; and the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Let one section of this reading focus your reflection. Can you discern an invitation here to live more lovingly? Choose one of your relationships in family or work that could be enriched through some small act of love. What will you do to allow this to happen in the next couple of days?

Have some conversation with the person next to you..... mindful that whatever is shared is confidential. Sometimes we can hear another into deeper clarity if we know what we share will not be repeated.

### **Spontaneous prayer of the faithful**

Jesus was not only concerned with personal conversion. He ached for his religion, his country, the wider human family. On this feast of love let us bring some of the events in our world that need the embrace of love...

Response: **Through us fill the world with love**

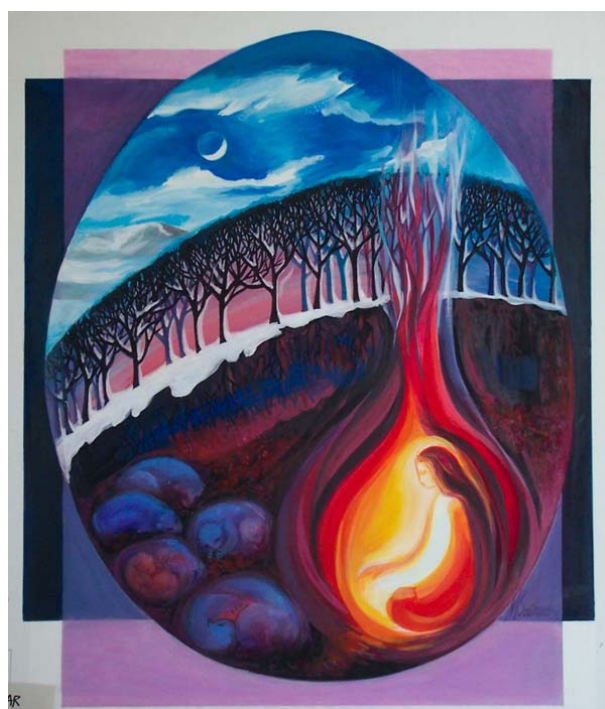
### **Let us pray:**

#### **SACRED HEART PSALM**

O Divine Beloved,  
so often I am casual and half-hearted  
in my love for you, my God.  
Come and set my heart ablaze  
with the fire of your love.  
Inflame my heart and prayers  
as you did your chosen Son, Jesus.  
His holy heart was constantly on fire  
with a consuming love of you, his God.

Envelop me in your flaming Spirit,  
that my lukewarm prayers and acts  
may spring alive with the fire of faith.  
Make my heart, like the heart of Christ,  
burn with compassion for the outcast,  
with comfort for the lonely  
and all who are in need.

May my heart thus formed  
in the pattern of his Sacred Heart  
become a fiery furnace



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where the Kingdom will be forged,  
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Grant this prayer

in the name of your Son,  
who dwells with you and the Holy Spirit,  
One God, forever and ever.

Edward Hays  
*Prayers for a Planetary Pilgrim*



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### **Final Song:**

#### **I'LL BE ALWAYS LOVING YOU**

I am here with you by your side,  
sheltering your heart from the night.

Where ever you go, whatever you do,  
I'll be always loving you.

I will be your God, your comforter.  
I will hold you close in my heart.

Let me love the world through your heart.  
Let me heal your wounds with my touch.

Let me see the world through your eyes.  
Let forgiveness shine through your smile.

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