

20 December 2015 – 4 Advent.

Readings: Micah 5:2–5a; Hebrews 10:5–10; Luke 1:39–45 (46–55).

Theme: *Thirsting for God/Love.*



INTRO: “What the world needs now...” “All you need is love.”
“Like the air we breathe, love by itself is not enough. It is not all we need. We also need truth, and a whole lot more of it.” – Mark Durie.
1 Corinthians 13:6, “It (love)... rejoices with **the truth.**”



I. **The truth: Love is SACRIFICIAL.**

John 19:28, “After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfil the Scripture), ‘**I thirst.**’”

John 15:13, “**Greater love** has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.”

1 Corinthians 13:4, “Love **suffers** long...”

Misty Edwards, “He had **arms wide open**, a heart exposed Arms wide open; He was bleeding, bleeding Love's definition, love's definition was looking at me Looking at Him, hanging on a tree.”



II. **The truth: Love is FORGIVING/UNCONDITIONAL.**

Jeremiah 6:14, “They have healed the brokenness of My people **superficially**, Saying, ‘Peace, peace,’ But there is no peace.”

Katy Perry, “I will love you, unconditionally.” Cf. Un-superficially.

Hebrews 10:17, “**I will remember** their sins and their lawless deeds **no more.**”

Misty Edwards, “I began to weep and weep and weep.”

Colossians 3:13, “Bear with each other and **forgive one another** if any of you has a grievance against someone. **Forgive as the Lord forgave you.**”



III. **The truth: Love is POWERFUL/ABUNDANT/ EVERLASTING.**

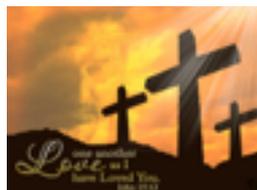
1 Corinthians 13:7, “Love **bears** all things, **believes** all things, **hopes** all things, **endures** all things.”

2 Timothy 3:1-2, 5, “Understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be... having the appearance of godliness, but **denying its power.**”

Romans 5:4, “**God's love has been poured into our hearts** through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.”

Romans 8:38-39, “I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from **the love of God** in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

1 Corinthians 13:8, “**Love never ends**”



CONCLUSION: Love is communal – Father, Son, Holy Spirit...

John 13:34-35, “A new commandment I give to you, that you **love one another**: just as I have loved you, you also are to **love one another**. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have **love for one another.**”

Dear Lord, quench our thirst with your love, in Jesus’ name. Amen.