

# LOVE

(In Action)

## Pridetide 4

June 28, 2020

### First Reading

~ from Romans 12:9-21

Your love must be sincere. Hate what is evil and cling to what is good.  
Love one another with the affection of family. Try to outdo one another  
in showing respect.

Don't grow slack, but be fervent in spirit: the One you serve is Christ.

Rejoice in hope; be patient under trial; persevere in prayer.

Look on the needs of God's holy people as your own; be generous in offering hospitality.

Bless your persecutors — bless and don't curse them.

Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Have the same attitude  
toward everyone.

Don't be condescending to those who aren't as well off as you; don't be conceited.

Don't repay evil with evil.

Be concerned with the highest ideal in the eyes of all people.

As much as it depends on you, be at peace with everyone.

Don't take revenge; leave room, my friends, for God's wrath. To quote scripture,

"Vengeance is mine, I will pay them back." says Our God." But there is more:

"If your enemies are hungry, feed them;

if they are thirsty, give them drink.

For in doing so, you will heap burning coals  
upon their heads."

Don't be overcome by evil,  
but overcome evil by doing good.

### Second Reading

~ adapted from Rachel Naomi Remen in *Shambala Sun*

Service is not the same thing as helping. Helping is based on inequality, it's not a relationship between equals. When you help, you use your own strength to help someone who has less strength. It's a one up, one down relationship, and people feel this inequality. When we help, we have to take care that we do not inadvertently take away more than we give, diminishing the person's sense of self-worth and self-esteem in the process. Serving is also different from fixing. We fix broken pipes; we don't fix people. When I set about fixing another person, it's because I see them as broken. Fixing is a form of judgment that separates us from one another; it creates a distance. So, fundamentally, helping, fixing and serving are different ways of seeing life. When you help, you see life as weak; when you fix, you see life as broken; and when you serve with love, you see life as whole. When we serve in this way, we understand that this person's suffering is also my suffering, that their joy is also my joy. We may help or fix many things in our lives, but when we serve with love, we are always in the service of wholeness.