

# February 14, 2021

## Epiphany 6



## For The Love of God

**Rev. Emma Chattin**  
**Preaching**

### **First Reading** ~ *Deuteronomy 6:4-9*

Hear, O Israel: YHWH, our God, is One!

You are to love YHWH your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength.

Let these words I command you today be written in your heart.

Teach them diligently to your children, and repeat them constantly

- when you are at home, walking down a road,

when you lie down at night and when you get up in the morning.

Tie them on your hand as a reminder; wear them as a circlet on your forehead;

write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

### **Second Reading** ~ *Mark 12:28-31*

One of the religious scholars who had listened to them debating and had observed how well Jesus had answered them, came up and put a question to him: "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear O Israel, God, our God, is One. You shall love the Most High God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, with all your strength.' The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself'. There is no commandment greater than these."

### **Third Reading** ~ *adapted from Carter Heyward*

Love creates justice here on earth. For this reason, loving involves commitment. We are not automatic lovers of self, others, the world, or God. Love does not just happen. We're not love machines, puppets on the strings of a Deity called "love." Love is a choice — not simply, or necessarily, a rational choice, but rather a willingness to be present to others (and present to God) without pretense or guile.