

27th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Year A

Our readings today take us on a journey of a love story. In this love story, the path is not always straight and there are obstacles to cross. However, as in all good love stories, good overcomes evil and love triumphs over all.

The prophet Isaiah says:

*“Let me sing to my friend
The song of his love for his vineyard.”*



This vineyard was tended with great love and so was expected to produce the finest grapes, but it produced sour grapes. Isaiah says that this vineyard represents the House of Israel, tended by God with loving care, but that instead of producing justice, it produced bloodshed and instead of integrity, it produced distress. However, that is not the end of the love story between God and God’s people. Today’s psalm says:

*“God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted.*

*And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name.
God of hosts, bring us back;
let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.”*

The theme continues in the Gospel where Jesus tells the chief priests and elders of the people:

*“that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people
who will produce its fruit.”*

The love story showing the love between God and God's people will have a happy ending. Good will overcome evil and love will conquer all. This is reflected in our second reading where St Paul exhorts the Philippians to live lives of love, goodness and truth, praying for what they need and leaving the future in God's hands which allows the God of peace to enfold them in love.

the best **love**
is the kind that awakens
the **soul** and makes us
reach for more
that plants a fire in our
hearts and brings
peace to our **minds**

Think of the love stories in your life – those involving family, friends, God.

How have these experiences of love drawn you closer to another person?

Have the obstacles been so great that they could not be crossed?

How do you let another person know that they are loved?

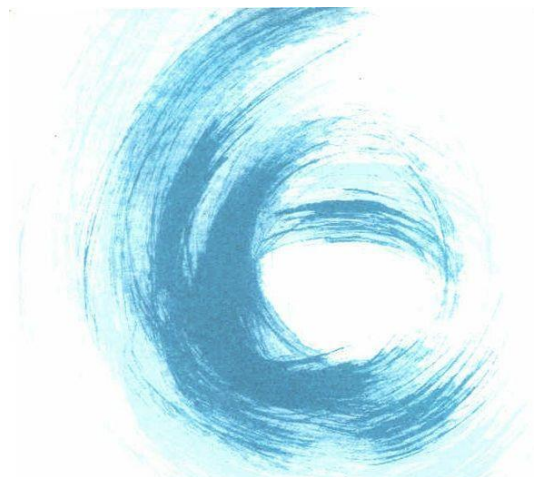
Do you put up barriers to love?

Do you allow God to enfold you in love?

How do you show your love for God?



"At some point in life,
someone will love you
more than what you've
expected. Be patient
and learn to wait,
because sometimes a
patient person receives
the best love story."



*(May God's love
wrap and enfold you,
embrace you and guide you,
and bring you comfort.*

Julian of Norwich