

## Cycle C

### Fifth Sunday of Lent

Lectionary #36

#### Reading I: Isaiah 43: 16-21

The words from the prophet Isaiah in this reading were meant to rouse the Israelites, who were languishing as exiles in a foreign land and were questioning whether God still **loved** them. These same words are intended for anyone who has experienced great upheaval in their lives and are also questioning God's **love**. Isaiah reminds the Israelites of all the things that God has done for them in the past and tells them that God will continue to do great things for them because of his great **love** for his people. Isaiah calls us to remember that God is constantly active in his **love** for us even during times where we may not be able to see his presence.

#### Reading 2: Philippians 3: 8-14

In this short passage, we see that Saint Paul does not question the **love** that Christ has for him and the **love** that he has for Christ even though he is in prison. The language that Saint Paul uses to describe his relationship with Christ is that of an intense **love**, especially when he describes himself as being *taken possession of by Christ Jesus*. Saint Paul knows that this **love** is available to all who commit themselves to Christ.

#### Gospel: John 8: 1-11

There can be no question that deep and ardent mercy and **love** are themes in this encounter between Jesus and the woman caught in adultery. Although it is evident that a sin has been committed, Jesus and the woman recognize that sin will not have the last word, but that **love** will. Those bringing the charge against the woman are trying to trick Jesus into ignoring the Law of Moses. However, Jesus extends that Law by adding the new Law of **love**. Jesus seeks to bring deep and abiding **love** to all people despite their circumstances.

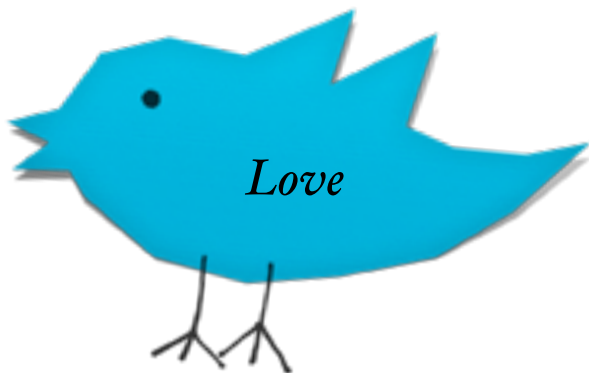
Think about how the one without sin is invited to throw the first stone, but will choose not to because he represents the Father's **love** and will consistently seek to live out God's **loving** forgiveness.



build. plant. grow.  
*the word this week*



lent



lectionary  
reading



children's  
story



***Wherever You Are, My Love Will Find You***

Written by Nancy Tillman

Illustrated by Nancy Tillman

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character  
education  
activity

**Nothing is more practical than  
finding God, than falling in  
love...Fall in love, stay in love,  
and it will decide everything.  
-Fr. Pedro Arrupe, SJ**

## *Wherever You Are My Love Will Find You*

This beautiful children's book speaks of a **love** that surrounds us in so many ways. The writer describes a **love** that seeks us out wherever we might be, even if we try to run away from it. The author uses many elements, especially nature, to reveal this **love** that surrounds us:

*In the green of the grass...in the smell of the sea...in the clouds floating along...at the top of the tree...in the sounds the crickets make at the end of the day...You are loved.*

## **Love in Action**

Step One: Provide each student with a paper plate that has a large heart in the middle of it with the word **LOVE** printed on it. The students can also write **LOVE** on the plates themselves.

Step Two: Have the students brainstorm what and who they believe God calls them to **love**. After listing all of these people and things, invite them to place these names on their plate around the heart.

Step Three: Then, have them draw arrows from the heart to the people or things. On each arrow, have students come up with an action word that shows how they **love** that particular person or thing. For example, if they choose to write about how they **love** their pet, they might write "Feed and walk" on the arrow.

Step Four. When the students have finished writing and decorating their plate, have them share one of the people or things that they love and the action that they take to express that love.

Love bears all things,  
believes all things,  
hopes all things,  
endures all things.  
-1 Corinthians 13: 7



case study

Look.  
Feel.  
Know.  
Act.

## What could you do today?

The verb form of the word **love** calls us to be active and to recognize that **love** is something that we can show towards many things and people in our lives. We can **love** creation by using natural resources in a thoughtful manner. We can **love** others by treating them with respect and kindness, beginning with our friends and family members. We can **love** by praying for others so that they are held in our hearts, which in itself is a symbol of **love**. Given this outline of ways that we can **love**, make a list of the talents and gifts that you have and the ways that you can use them to express **love** to the world that you live in.

## Look Feel Know Act

In the story *Wherever You Are, My Love Will Find You*, you can see that **love** surrounds you and seeks you out in all circumstances. Because you are **loved** and an important part of the world, you are called to make **love** known to others through your actions and words. Dedicate yourself each day, with God's help, to reflect God's **love** to the people around you and to the earth.

The readings for this Fifth Sunday of Lent reflect the way that God's **love** seeks us out no matter what has gone on in our lives. Similarly, the story for this week, *Wherever You Are, My Love Will Find You* shows how **love** makes itself present and finds us no matter where we are. **Love** and God are relentless in searching for us!



**closing  
tool**

Lord, I pray that my life will reflect your love and give honor to you through the words I use with others, my thoughts about others, and my actions towards them. May your light of love shine brightly through me. Amen.



**Santa Clara  
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