

Tuesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012

The Rev. Dr. Don McKim '74, Editor, *These Days*. Presbyterian Publishing Corporation.  
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**Scripture:**

1 John 4:7-16

7Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. 10In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. 12No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. 13By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. 14And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. 15God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. 16So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

**Devotional:**

In Sunday school, I remember learning the verse: "Let us love one another, because love is from God" (1 John 4:7).

This verse captures the nature of Christmas. Today we celebrate the greatest message in the world: "God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him" (v.9). As John Calvin said, "Christ is such a shining and remarkable proof of the divine love toward us that, whenever we look to Him, He clearly confirms to us the doctrine that God is love" (Comm. 1 John 4:9). As the Christmas carol puts it: "Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love Divine,"

This message impacts our lives. God's initiative to enact a radical love in Christ for us sinners orients us now to "live through him." Our new life in Christ propels us to a radical love for others.

Today is Christmas. Let's embrace God's love; and love others!

**Prayer:**

O God, may we love others because you first loved us. Amen.