

Renew you in His Love

Be aware that God is within you and in others around you. His Son will soon be born again in your heart ... Come, Lord Jesus ...

Pray for the following grace:

Ask God for the grace to experience His passionate love for you this Christmas ...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QmEliII-8Rg>

Scripture reading:

Song of Songs 2: 8-14

Listen! My beloved!

Look! Here he comes,
leaping across the mountains,
bounding over the hills.

My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag.

Look! There he stands behind our wall,
gazing through the windows,
peering through the lattice.

My beloved spoke and said to me,
“Arise, my darling,
my beautiful one, come with me.

See! The winter is past;
the rains are over and gone.

Flowers appear on the earth;
the season of singing has come,
the cooing of doves
is heard in our land.

The fig tree forms its early fruit;
the blossoming vines spread their fragrance.

Arise, come, my darling;
my beautiful one, come with me.”

He

My dove in the clefts of the rock,
in the hiding places on the mountainside,

show me your face,
let me hear your voice;
for your voice is sweet,
and your face is lovely.

Reflection:

Our understanding, or story, of God is such that we believe God is madly in love with us and wants us to respond to that divine passion. More and more we are being invited to look at our daily experiences to grow spiritually. The love of God for us is something like the intense, passionate, consuming, sacrificial and life-giving love between husband and wife. Of course, God loves us with infinitely greater intensity, but marital love offers us a special revelation of what God's divine love is like.

Advent brings together the deepest aspects of humanity: love, new life, commitment, integrity, faith, and hope in that which is beyond our present powers to understand. Mary, Joseph and the child Jesus revealed to us the grace of God at work in our most intimate relationships as well as our deepest vows and loves. Advent is the time when we are renewed in God's love. It is a renewal that transforms the human heart and helps us to see everyday things with new eyes. Advent is God's offer to be renewed in love.

Questions for reflection:

- How have you recently experienced God's passionate love?
- How can your love for God be renewed?

Concluding prayer: An Advent Prayer by Henri Nouwen --

Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and darkness,
send Your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.
We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear Your voice each day.
We who are anxious over many things look forward to Your coming among us.
Who who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of Your kingdom.
We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of Your presence.
We are Your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the Light.
To You we say, "Come Lord Jesus!" Amen.

Adapted from: *“My Advent Journal – A spiritual journey to Christmas” – William F. Maestri*