

Sunday 15th Week C



Van Gogh: The Good Samaritan (1849)

“But a Samaritan traveller who came upon him was moved with compassion...”

THE GOSPEL - [Luke 10:25-37](#)

He said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

Lord,
I love you.
Expand my heart;
Let me love my neighbors.

Make us brave enough to cleanse wounds,
work to protect our environment,
give shelter to travelers when needed,

help pay bills and lend a helping hand.

When we love you
in our neighbor,
let us find you in
ourselves.

THE FIRST READING [Deuteronomy 30:10-14](#)

This command is not too mysterious and remote for you.

Where can we find your commandments, O Lord?
Could it be hidden in the sky? Who will go up
and get it there and explain it to us?
Is it across the sea? Who will
cross the sea and get it for
us so we can ponder
it and attempt to
understand it?

“The
command
that I gave you is
not remote or mysterious.
Look no further than your heart.
My law, the law of love, is written there,
in your heart, in your mouth, in your very being.
I created you in my image. You love because I love.”

Lord,
you are as near to us as our skin.
Help us to always find you
in our loves.

THE SECOND READING Colossians 1:15-20

All things were created through him and for him.

Christ:
powers, and dominions, all things in heaven, on earth,
were created through you and for you.
Yet you reached far down to us
and hollowed us out,
put within us
your own
soul.

Beyond our knowing,
but not beyond our love.

Let us find you in all you have created. *(Annie Osdieck)*



COMMENTARY: Today's readings celebrate the nearness of the Lord to us. Created through God and for God, we are drawn ever closer by peace and reconciliation. Not only that. We are also called to become like the Lord in our service to all.

The **First Reading** commands us to love, and gives us the means to do it. The law, or word, is not beyond our reach but is as close to us as our very hearts. And the help and compassion of the Lord for the poor and needy can be seen by our service. It is through this that, hearts will revive (**Psalm**).

The **Second Reading** makes clear that all is possible by Christ and his cross. He holds everything in being from the beginning and, even now, is drawing us together in deeper unity.

Finally, the parable of the Good Samaritan (**Gospel**) gives us a concrete example of what this service, this command to love, this deeper unity without bias or prejudice, looks like. Let's pray, this week, that we might have renewed confidence, trust, and hope in the Good Samaritan who comes close to us in our need, that we might go out so that God's desires for all people might be seen by our loving response.



Dina Roe Kendall: The Good Samaritan (1994)



And who is my Neighbour?