EPISTLE – 17 SEPTEMBER 2023

Dear Saints,

Scripture says in 1 John 4:16 (New International Version),

“And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. **God is love.**

Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.”

Love is love.

Love is *not* tough. Love is *not* conditional. Love is *not* a “but”.

True love is infinite. St Paul says it wonderfully on his hymn to love.

1 Corinthians 13: 1-8, 13, New International Version

“If I speak in the human tongues[a] or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.

2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

3 If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast,[b] but do not have love, I gain nothing.

4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

8 Love never fails.

13 And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."

We are still in the Season of Creation, as we celebrate Spring. Spring is when the Sun 'returns' from the Northern Hemisphere sky, new life begins to sprout all around us, the beautiful jacarandas begin to rouse from their Winter slumber, and the blessings of the African rains return.

This Sunday we host the theological students from Sedibeng House for their Valedictory Service. So do come along to support them as we reflect on the Scriptures together on who God is, from the first book of the Bible, Genesis 1, "A God of Beginnings" The Presbytery Moderator will be in attendance, Rev Frikkie Botha.

In love,

Rev Craig

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