



Sunday 19 December 2021 | Advent Week 4



Message from Rev. Aaron Moad

Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent.

This week the theme is love. But what do we mean by love? In English we only have

one word for love: love. The New Testament was primarily written in Greek. In Greek there are eight words and many derivatives of those words for love.

Philia: brotherly love or friendship.

Phios: A love for a friend or relative.

Philautia: the word used to describe self-love

Storge: the love between family members

Ludus: playful, flirtatious love, it describes the situation of having a crush and acting on it, related to lust.

Eros: sensual or romantic love.

Pragma: committed, companionate love. Eros can develop into Pragma over time.

Agape: this love is selfless, sacrificial, unconditional love. It is the highest form of love in the Bible.

Agape is the most common word for love in the New Testament. It occurs 259 times as a verb or as a noun. Philos occurs only 54 times. The other types of love do not occur at all in the New Testament.

This Greek word, agápē (pronounced uh-GAH-pay), and variations of it are frequently found throughout the New Testament but rarely in non-Christian Greek literature. Agape love perfectly describes the kind of love Jesus Christ has for his Father and for his followers. Agape is the love God has for his creation.

A simple way to summarize agape is God's perfect, unconditional love.

Jesus lived out agape love by sacrificing himself on the cross for the sins of the world.

Agape love is more than an emotion. It is a sentiment that demonstrates itself through actions.

Agape is the term that defines God's immeasurable, incomparable love for humankind. God gives this love graciously, unreservedly to us, who are undeserving and inferior to him.

One important aspect of agape love is that it extends

beyond emotions. It's much more than a feeling or sentiment. Agape love is active. It demonstrates love through actions.

Probably the most well-known Bible verse is the perfect example of agape love expressed through actions. The all-encompassing love of God for the entire human race caused him to send his son. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16, ESV)

For Jesus agape love was not reserved for God, he told his followers to love one another in the same sacrificial way as he loved them. "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34-35, ESV)

What would be the outcome of this kind of love? People would be able to recognise them as Jesus' disciples because of their mutual love.

The Apostle Paul commanded the Corinthians to remember the importance of love. He used the term agape six times in his famous "love chapter" (see 1 Corinthians 13:1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 13). Paul wanted the believers to show love in everything they did. Their love for God and other people was to be their motivation for everything they did.

Agape love is not merely an attribute of God, it is his essence. God is fundamentally love. He alone loves in the completeness and perfection of love.

We serve out of agape love.

I could say "I love football", or "I love chocolate", or "I love Jane, Elspeth and Hunter", and then say "I love God". Our word love seems a little inadequate when it can be used to describe how I feel about food as well as people and God.

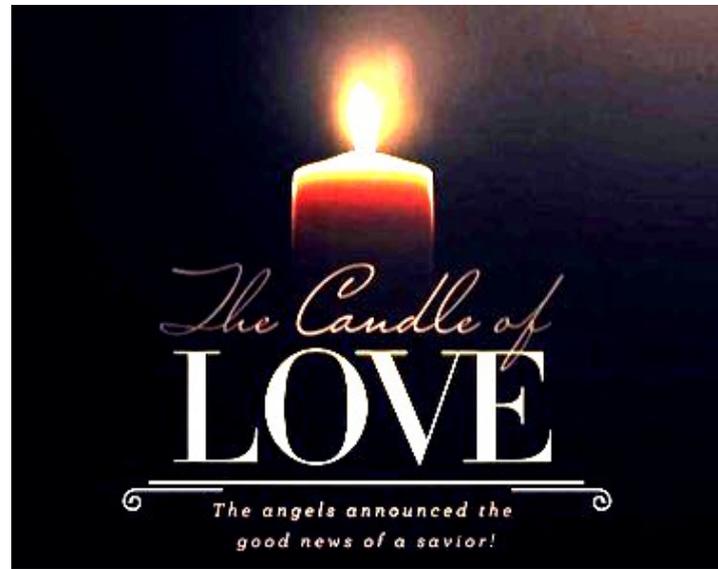
The type of love we are talking about in the fourth week of Advent is agape.

Sources

<https://www.neverthirsty.org>

<https://www.wellandgood.com>

<https://www.learnreligions.com>



A Message From Elizabeth

"Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine; Love was born at Christmas, star and angels gave the sign". (TIS 317)

I am writing this message as we are about to enter the fourth week of Advent, the theme of which is LOVE.

The Bible contains many stories about love. Perhaps one of the most well known verse is John 3:16 "For God so loved the world...".

Our BPUC mission statement is based on Mark 12: 30-31 "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these (NIV)

It is my sincere hope and prayer that you feel "loved" by being a part of the BPUC family.

Over the past two years I have endeavoured to show love to all by writing a weekly message. I began doing this when the Rev Janie and Rev Ron French moved to Coopers Plains. As the Chair of Church Council and an Elder, I considered that I would be the 'constant' of encouragement while BPUC was in a transition phase. I have endeavoured to not only deliver information relevant to our functioning as a congregation but also to express my Christian love and concern for each one of you.

Now, With Rev Aaron Moad being our minister in placement, there is no need for my weekly message. Aaron writes a message each week. He makes himself available to all at "The Twisted Fig" Cafe on Monday mornings. He joins in Bible Studys and the weekly Prayer meeting. I am confident that he is getting to know his "flock" at BPUC. Conversely, we are getting to know him.

Aaron can be contacted by phone: 0411 325 527 or email: bpuchurch@optusnet.com. Unless urgent, please respect that Aaron's nominated day off is Fridays.

I will continue to pray for all that happens at BPUC.

God Bless you, now and always

Elizabeth Wells,

BPUC Church Council Chairperson

Offerings

Please continue to direct debit/credit directly into your nearest Commonwealth Bank Branch or Please contact Neil Rackham if you need any assistance.

Bank details are:

Account Name: The Uniting Church in Australia Banora Point Church (Note: Your Bank website may limit the number of characters you can put into the account name box so "The Uniting Church in Aust" is OK)

BSB No: 062 611 **Account No:** 10120762

Banora Point Uniting Church

MINISTER: Rev. Aaron Moad | Phone: 0411 325 527

Church Office:

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What's Happening This Week

Wednesday	Prayer Meeting 8am Worship Singers 2pm
Thursday	CWCI Bible Study 10am
Friday	Christmas Eve Service 7pm
Saturday	Christmas Day Service 9am
Next Sunday	Boxing Day Service In The Park 9am

Activities Returning in 2022

Men's Bible Study	Thursday 6 January @ 9am
Chaira Companions	Sunday 16 January @ TBC
Mainly Music	Early February @ 9am
Craft Group	Friday 4 February @ 9am

Church Roster

	<u>TODAY</u>	<u>NEXT SUNDAY</u>
Organist	Jill	— — — —
Greeter	Virginia & Lynn	SERVICE
Bible Reader	Georgina & Virginia	IN THE
Morning Tea	Sylvia & Joan B	PARK
Hall Set Up	Neil	— — — —
Cleaning	Audrey & Helen P	— — — —

If you are unable to do your roster, please organise a swap AND let Janice know ASAP.

Fred's Place

There has been a proposal we assist clients of Fred's place by providing some small gifts and/ or non-perishable food items at Christmas.

If any one wishes to contribute to this, a basket will be available in the hall on 5th, 12th and 19th of December.

Contact Marshall Pagan for any queries.

Rostered Duties

"The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few" ~ Luke 10:2

A huge thank you to the invaluable volunteers on our church rosters who assist in a range of "behind the scenes" work to keep our church running safely and effectively. Now we are once more increasing our capacity with relaxed covid rules, we would love to hear from you if you are able to assist in any of the rostered duties particularly in the functions of stewards and property care. For more information please see Joyce Pagan, or Janice Monk after the service.

Many hands make light work – So thank in advance for your help.

Acknowledgement To Country

The Banora Point Uniting Church acknowledges the indigenous traditional owners and custodians of this land, the Goori people and their Elders, past, present and future.

Our Mission: To love God and love our neighbours