





**4<sup>th</sup> Week of Advent: Love** December 20, 2023 Lisa Heckman

In observing the Love them for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent, I want to remind you, using the words of Joh Harvey, that you are deeply, deeply loved.

On this night of the year, a voice is speaking —
can we hear it?

"I know the cares and the anxious thoughts of your hearts.
I know the hard time you often give yourselves.
I know the hopes and ambitions that you have for yourselves and for others.
I know your doubts, too —
even while you seek to express your belief.

On this night, I want to find a way of saying to you:

You are deeply, deeply loved,

just as you are,

forgiven, loved and challenged to be

the very best you can be.

So I'm speaking to you in the only way I know how —

from a stable,

in a child born into poverty,

soon to grow to maturity,

born to show you,

in a human life,

the love of God."

May you have a blessed and joyous Christmas filled with love.

Lisa

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