

**Mount Hollywood United Church of Christ – Los Angeles**  
**Fourth Sunday after Epiphany – January 31, 2016 – Teens Presiding**  
**Rev. Anne G. Cohen, Minister**  
**1 Corinthians 13:1-13**

**REFLECTION**

**“You know you're in love when you can't fall asleep  
because reality is finally better than your dreams.”**

— Dr. Seuss (1904-1991) author children's books

**“The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference. The opposite of art is not ugliness, it's  
indifference. The opposite of faith is not heresy, it's indifference. And the opposite of life is  
not death, it's indifference.”**

— Elie Wiesel (b.1928) author memoir, biography

**Defining Love**

4 Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant 5 or  
rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6 it does not  
rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. 7 It bears all things, believes all  
things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never ends. 1 Corinthians 13

According to this text – read at almost every wedding I've ever attended or presided at:

**LOVE IS:**

Patient

Kind

Contented (not envious)

Humble (not boastful or arrogant)

Polite (not rude)

Gracious (accommodates the wishes of others)

Cheerful (not irritable)

Helpful / Pleasant (not resentful)

Delights in the truth (not wrongdoing \* has integrity...)

Strong (but not a doormat...)

Trusting / Faithful

Hopeful

Enduring

Endless

Are there some other words you might use to describe your experience of love in real life?

Awesome, passionate, shy, painful, frustrating, secure, creative, serious, hilarious, elusive, multifaceted, surprising, comes and goes, active/passive, sacrificial, compassionate, playful, unrequited, fearful, protective, illegal, unsanctioned...

Is it love if it is: Possessive? Obsessive? Dangerous? Boring? Defiant? Suicidal?

What are some of the kinds of love you have experienced so far in your life?

Self, parents, pets, child/ren, boyfriend/girlfriend, spouse/partner, ex-spouse/partner, other family, neighbors, friends, church family, species, city, camp, country, planet, universe, G-d...  
Food, home, clothes, belongings, books, cars, collections, architecture...  
Nature, political party, history, religion, the arts / one art, author(s) / genre(s), language(s), culture(s)...  
An event (Burning Man, Carnival....)

If we say "G-d is Love" – what do we mean by that?  
How would you describe or define G-d Love?

Tell a story about how you experienced G-d Love?

If Jesus walked among us today, what would his Love be like?  
What would he do or say?

One of my goals in life is to "Love Enough..."  
How can we know if we have loved enough? Can we?

## 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

1 If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

4 Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant 5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6 it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. 7 It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. 9 For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; 10 but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end.

11 When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. 12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known.

13 And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.