

Community Circles
February 17, 2021

It's All Love, with Rev. Melanie Eyre

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Christians need to think “Nothing” when they call God “Love.” Buddhists need to think “Love” when they say “Emptiness.” This will at least wake us up to the fact that words must always fall short of the ineffable.

~ Brother David Steindl-Rast, OSB

“God is Love.” How often have we heard it, and how often do we say it? On Sunday we took a few moments to unpack this phrase and take a closer look at what we might mean. Given that any words we use will fall far short of describing God or love, we are an ambitious group!

What indeed are we saying? *What comes up for you when you hear that “God is Love.” What aspects of your spiritual journey do you call on to ascribe meaning to it? Spiritual insights gained through experience? Your early religious education? Was this the message you got in your early religious education?*

What aspects of God for you translate into love? In the talk, we explored three aspects of the Divine that may help us think about God as love. They are **creation, revelation, and reconciliation**. First, God creates us and all things through love, the first principle. Second, God reveals her wonder and her essence to us, and in that way invites us to touch our own divinity and experience our oneness with all. Finally, God reconciles us to each other, to all of creation, and to our deeper selves. God invites us back into relationship, into harmony. All of these aspects arise through love.

What other aspects, for you, lead you to understand God as love? If it is true, does this answer any of life’s fundamental questions for you, and how?

We also agreed that any exploration of God as love runs us headfirst into the profound mystery that is ultimate reality. At some point, we have to put down the sharpie and the whiteboard, and realize there is no wiring diagram that will explain the Unknowable to our rational minds. As Mirabai Starr puts it *“Divested of our mental constructs about the existence and nature of this God, we come face to face with Ultimate Reality. In the midst of our crumbling, we may not see it as grace.”* *What do you take from this idea? What mental constructs of God have you been invited to discard?*