

December 25 2025

HOW LOVE SHOWS UP

By Pr. Beate Chun

Grace to you and peace
from the one who is
and the one who was
and the one who is to come

In our gospel reading today
we just heard the beautiful
1st chapter from the Gospel of John.

I love this passage.
It reads like a love letter from God to us.
It tells us how much God loves us,
how much God wanted to reach out to us,
and how much God wanted to communicate
this love to us.

For this reason, Jesus appeared in the world
—so that we could see that grace and truth were among us.
And love.

I grew up in a German household.
My German parents,
like many other parents of the same generation,
were not very expressive

when it came to love.

In our household, we never openly spoke words such as, "I love you."
But it was not necessary.
I knew my parents loved me.
There were many ways they communicated their love through their actions.

Two actions in particular stand out to me, both of them involved my father.

My father drove a BMW.
We were a family of modest means, and the BMW was actually a kind of luxury for us and it was the only car we had.
Then I got my driver's license and began driving.
For a while, things went quite well.
But one day, I crashed the car into a wall.
I dented the passenger side badly and I could only imagine how upset my father would be.
He could have quite a temper, and sometimes he would fly off the handle, and I was prepared for the worst.

I parked the car so that he could not immediately see the damage and then I waited for him to come home.

"Dad, please sit down," I said.
"I have to tell you something."
"I took the car and damaged the door on the passenger side... and the damage is quite bad".

Then I held my breath.
I expected an explosion.

But he didn't explode.
He was calm and simply said,
"Well, then we just have to fix it."
I couldn't believe it.
Of all things, I had not expected such a reaction.

Another incident was during college,
when I had boyfriend troubles.
Things became so bad that,
on the spur of the moment,
I decided to run away from college
and come home.

It was the middle of the week in winter.
My parents were certainly surprised to see me
—college was eight hours away.
I didn't explain much,
only that I had problems with Arno
and needed a break.
Again, I expected my parents to be upset,
to scold me or berate me.
But the next day, my dad surprised me.
He said, "Well, since you're home,
and since it's winter
and very good skiing weather,
why don't I take you skiing today
so you get out of your funk."

We both loved to ski
and we went skiing for the whole day
and it helped me a lot.
My father had to take a day off work for me,
which was a big deal—
he never took time off
except for summer vacation,
and even when he was sick,
he wouldn't call in.

Yet he took that day for me
to get me out of my funk
as he put it.

There are other examples I could share.
Perhaps you can also think of stories from your father,
your mother, or a beloved relative...

Or perhaps you never knew your father,
or your father was absent,
or passed away when you were young.
Maybe you wished you could hear from him.

Imagine that you could have
received a letter from your father
a love letter,
what words should such a letter say?
Perhaps: "You're precious to me. I love you. You are my pride and joy."

I feel that God is saying all of this to us
in the beautiful first chapter of John,
where it says that God took on human flesh,
and that God in Christ came to live among us.
And because of this, we can come closer to God,
in fact we can become the beloved children of God,
and we to see God's glory
full of grace and truth.

Not everyone has a good experience with their father.
I know people who have had painful experiences.
Sometimes things go wrong between parents and children.
Sometimes there's disappointment,
or even rejection, estrangement, or disillusionment.
When that happens, it is, of course,
sad and painful, perhaps especially during the holidays.

But let us not forget that we can always count on our Father in heaven.

Or, if you prefer not to use the word “Father,”
we can call God our loving Parent in heaven,
who loves us more than we can ever imagine
or comprehend.

God’s love is there for us every morning
of everyday
and each God tells us
“I love you, and you are my pride and joy.”

Amen.

Sermon for Christmas Day, December 25, 2025

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Text: [John 1:1-14 NRSVue - The Word Became Flesh - In the - Bible Gateway](#)