

# re:new - New Year Sermon Series

## Week 4: Renewed Intimacy — Encountering God's Love

### Theme Overview

At the core of new beginnings is love. God's love isn't just a concept to understand but a reality to experience. When we encounter His love, we're strengthened, healed, and made whole.

### Icebreaker

What's something that makes you feel deeply loved or valued by others?

### Bible Reflection

Read **Ephesians 3:14-21 & Romans 5:1-8**. Ephesians 3 invites us to be rooted and grounded in God's love — a love that surpasses knowledge. Romans 5 reminds us that God's love is poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

### Discussion Questions

1. What strikes you from either of these readings or from the sermon this week?
2. How would you describe your current experience of God's love? What does God's love mean for you?
3. What do you think it means to be 'rooted and established in love' (Ephesians 3:17)?
4. Why do you think we sometimes struggle to receive and know the love of God? What might be some of the barriers for us?
5. What helps you experience the love of God — worship, nature, Scripture, prayer?
6. What does Romans 5 say to us about the love of God?
7. How does experiencing God's love affect how we love others?
8. How would you be different if you lived more from a place of knowing the love of God this year?

### Reflection & Prayer

Take some time now together sitting in silence and seeking to encounter God's love.

First pray that the Holy Spirit would pour his love into your hearts.

Then, get someone to read slowly the poem 'Let your God love you' (see overleaf)

Then encourage people to sit in silence for 5 minutes or so together and simply encounter the love of God.

You might like to put on some 'soaking' music in the background while you do this.

After you have done this, share any reflections together.

### Midweek Challenge

Each day this week, take some time simply to sit in silence and encounter the love of God. You might like to tell God in return how much you love him too. This might seem strange at first, but try it and see what happens.

# ***Let Your God Love You***

***(by Edwina Gately)***

Be silent.  
Be still.  
Alone.  
Empty  
Before your God.  
Say nothing.  
Ask nothing.  
Be silent.  
Be still.  
Let your God look upon you.  
That is all.  
God knows.  
God understands.  
God loves you  
With an enormous love,  
And only wants  
To look upon you  
With that love.  
Quiet.  
Still.  
Be.  
Let your God—  
Love you.