



WIDENING CIRCLES

SCC | Sunday 6th April 2025

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“The great mystics tend to recognize that Whoever God Is, he or she does not need our protection or perfect understanding. All our words, dogmas, and rituals are like children playing in a sandbox before Infinite Mystery and Wonderment. If anything is true, then it has always been true; and people who sincerely search will touch upon the same truth in every age and culture, while using different language, symbols, and rituals to point us in the same direction.

The direction is always toward more love and union — in ever widening circles.” *(Richard Rohr)*



A growing, maturing faith

**“The direction
is always toward
more love
and union
— in ever widening
circles.”**

(Richard Rohr)

**“God is
a circle
whose centre
is everywhere
and
circumference
nowhere.”**



**God is
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whose centre
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“You have heard that it was said,
‘Love your neighbour and hate your
enemy.’ But I tell you, love your
enemies and pray for those who
persecute you, that you may be
children of your Father in heaven.
He causes his sun to rise on the evil
and the good, and sends rain on the
righteous and the unrighteous.”
(Matthew 5:43-45)

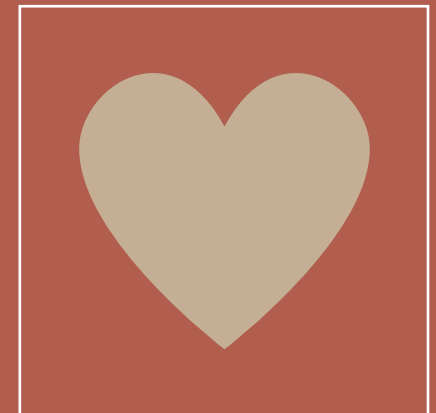
Jesus’ Circle of Love

**God
(heart, soul, mind...)
neighbour
self
anyone!
enemy**

What helps us move in the direction of more love and union – in ever widening circles?



Curiosity



Compassion



“The long journey into a more profound "loving as God loves" begins when you can finally bring a caring presence to all those enemies you have created over the years inside yourself. The new relationship you develop with such feelings, and your own body suffering beneath this burden, becomes the key to uncovering new ways of relating to all those around you. We suggest [...] that the immediate, practical and first step forward [towards loving as God loves] involves developing a new habit of noticing, nurturing, and caring for the enemies you have created inside yourself.”

(Ed McMahon and Peter Campbell)

**I live my life in widening circles
that reach out across the world.
I may not complete this last one
but I give myself to it.**

(Rainer Maria Rilke)

