

November 19, 2023
Twenty-fifth Sunday in Kingdomtide
Today's Sermon:
"Friendsgiving"

Scripture: St. John 15:12-17 (New Revised Standard Version)

¹² "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing, but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷ I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

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~ SERMON NOTES ~

In today's biblical passage, Jesus challenges us to love one another to the point of laying down one's life. This tells us much about how Jesus views the true nature of friendship. Let's consider four characteristics of a faithful friend:

1. Reaches for your _____, but touches your _____.

"Walking with a friend in the dark is better than walking alone in the light." – Helen Keller

2. Will _____ with you while others are _____ at you.

"There is nothing on this earth more to be prized than true friendship." – St. Thomas Aquinas

3. A source of _____ when you are under the _____.

"A friend is what the heart needs all the time." – Rev. Henry Van Dyke

4. Will celebrate your _____, and stay with you in _____.

"The friendship that can cease has never been real." – St. Jerome
