

the Venues

Go Deep

Merry Christmas!
“When Heaven Kissed Earth”
December 24 & 25, 2016

What do you remember about your first kiss?

With whom would you like to stand under the mistletoe?

Theologian Thomas Goodwin said that Christmas is the day “heaven kissed earth.”

What do you think he means?

Read the following verses in different versions and think about and discuss how they describe God’s love.

1 John 3:1

Ephesians 3:17-19

1 John 4:10-12

Romans 8:38-39

Jeremiah 31:3

What words do the writers use to describe God’s love?

Which description surprises you?

Which description means the most to you?

How do these descriptions shape your view of God?

Dr. Richard Selzer, a surgeon, writes about an experience he observed between a husband and wife after he performed surgery on the wife face. Here it is:

“I stand by the bed where a young woman lies, her face postoperative, her mouth twisted in palsy, clownish. A tiny twig of the facial nerve, the one to the muscles of her mouth has been severed. She will be thus from now on. The surgeon had followed with religious fervor the curve of her flesh; I promise you that. Nevertheless, to remove the tumor in her cheek, I had to cut the little nerve. Her young husband is in the room. He stand on the opposite side of the bed and together they seem to dwell in the evening lamplight, isolated from me, private. Who are they, I ask myself, he and this wry mouth I have made, who gaze at and touch each other so generously, greedily? The young woman speaks, “Will my mouth always be like this?” she asks. “Yes,” I say, “it will. It is because the nerve was cut.” She nods and is silent. But the young man smiles. “I like it,” he says, “It is kind of cute.” “All at once I know who he is. I understand and I lower my gaze. One is not bold in an encounter with a god. Unmindful, he bends to kiss her crooked mouth and I am so close I can see how he twists his own lips to accommodate to hers, to show her that their kiss still works.”

How does this incident illustrate what God did for humanity in the Christmas event?

How does John 1:14 demonstrate God’s kiss of humanity?

How does a kiss make you feel? Then how do you feel after knowing that God kissed you?