

## **FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**

February 2, 2025

Year C, Revised Common Lectionary

*[formatted version with line breaks and verse markers removed]*

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*Love Lets Go of Power*  
Tile from Peace Wall in Hamilton  
New Zealand, late 20<sup>th</sup> century

**Jeremiah 1:4-10** Now the word of the LORD came to me saying, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.” Then I said, “Ah, LORD God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.” But the LORD said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am only a boy,’ for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD.” Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me, “Now I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.”

### Psalm 71:1-6

- ✘ In you, O LORD, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame.
- ✘ In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me; incline your ear to me and save me.
- ✘ Be to me a rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.
- ✘ Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of the unjust and cruel.
- ✘ For you, O LORD, are my hope, my trust, O LORD, from my youth.
- ✘ From my birth I have leaned upon you, my protector since my mother’s womb.
- ✘ My praise is continually of you.

**1 Corinthians 13:1-13** If I speak in the tongues of humans and of angels but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers and understand all mysteries and all knowledge and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions and if I hand over my body so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part, but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see only a reflection, as in a mirror, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love remain, these three, and the greatest of these is love.

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