



**May 23, 2016**

by Lora Morgan Dunham

*Abide in me as I abide in you. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. John 15 (NRSV)*

Reading this passage during worship, I rediscovered the meaning of "living in Christ's love". In 2011 elders crafted a statement to express the ministry and calling of St. Andrew, proclaiming "our purpose is to be the body of Christ, living in Christ's love and serving as Christ served". At the time, we questioned the meaning of "living in Christ's love", whether to write "loving as Christ loved" or "living as Christ lived" instead. But "living in Christ's love" is about *being*, dwelling in Christ, an inner state which moves us to outward expression of Christ's love, embodied in service to others. I had forgotten. But here is Christ telling us "abide in me". "Abide in my love." Abide in Christ's love, keep Christ's commandments, and bear much fruit to glorify God. We are called to this now, and as we leave Melrose to journey to our new home.

*Jesus, thank you for inviting us to live in your love; to abide in you. Thank you for the knowledge that we may abide in you, and you in us, wherever we are. Help us fulfill your purpose, for apart from you we can do nothing. Bless our efforts that they may bear fruit and glorify God, so that you may take joy in us. Lord, our joy is complete in you.*