



# Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

Cathedral of the Honolulu Diocese • Founded 1843 • National Historic Register

## **Fourth Sunday of Lent**

March 10, 2024

Beloved Disciples of Christ,

### ***“Embracing God’s Love in Jesus”***

Greetings of peace, love, and joy!

I must say that the Gospel of John, Chapter 3, Verse 16, is one of the most quoted Scripture passages that I know of. ***“For God so loved the world that he gave his only son so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.”*** It is often used for reflection and preaching. It is a statement of fact and a source of spiritual enrichment. It is very appropriate for all of us to understand and reflect deeply on this verse and its meaning during this Lenten season. We often get used to hearing this or reading this verse but never have another thought about what it means. Also, how profoundly it can affect our life and faith. When we hear this verse so often, it can become ordinary, and the true meaning loses its depth.

Let us take a moment to ask ourselves if we have truly realized the meaning of this wonderful verse from Sacred Scripture. Let us ask ourselves if we have genuinely realized how much God loves us. Is it enough that we know who Jesus is and what He did for us? Or is there something more to it in understanding how this love was manifested?

From the beginning of time, God already showed how much He loved. He created this world and prepared everything. He saved the people of Israel from their bondage in Egypt. He provided food and water on their journey to the Promised Land. And how did people respond to Him? They wandered into this world. They adhered to false gods and endeavored for worldly pursuits. But God did not stop loving them. He continued to send them leaders to guide them to the path of light and life. Still, they chose to live in darkness and sin. And when that time came, He sent His Son to live in this world to teach and show the path to salvation.

If we are to look around at what is happening in our world today, many still adhere to the path of darkness. Many still prefer to embrace the way of the world rather than the way of God. It is no wonder that we still experience so much division, pain, hatred, and injustice. We cannot just blame anyone other than ourselves because we have not embraced God’s love for us wholeheartedly.

God sent His only Son into this world to show us how to live and love and be able to transform this broken world we live in. The depth of this love of Jesus had been manifested by His Passion, Death, and Resurrection. And for someone to do that for us shows how He cares for us.

During this season of grace, let God’s love enrich and mold us. And allow His love for us to be the source of inspiration to love others in return.

Your friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual