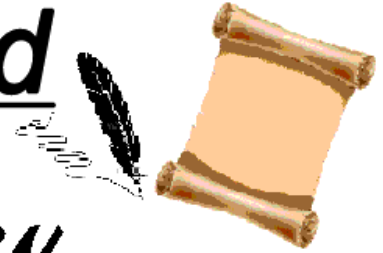


# The First Word



## *THE PASTOR'S PEN* *(Disciples of Christ)*

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September 25th, 2017

### **So Great a Love**

I cannot tell you how good it is to be back, Thank the Lord! As I recently wrote to you, I am also eternally grateful for all the prayers, cards, messages, and support that I have received from so many of you! I likewise must again thank our leadership and our clergy who have stepped up and faithfully maintained while I was gone, well done.

Of course, what makes all this possible is one all-encompassing word, LOVE. And yet, unlike the often misunderstood twisted and exploited secular use of the word, Scripture speaks of a different kind of love. Yes, the Bible speaks of an eternal and unbreakable love. A love that brings life in the midst of death, hope in the midst of despair, peace in the midst of hatred, generosity in the midst of selfishness. So great a love that when experienced by one person, can trigger a domino effect of caring and love. And our job as followers of Jesus Christ is to help others experience that wonderful love of God.

You did it when you walked, even for a few steps, in the footsteps of Jesus, in your life, in your family, at work and in the wider community. We do it in our weekly hour of sharing and offering in worship. Jesus did it in sacrificing himself on a cross.

Quite simply, as we continue the journey together, let us also continue to reach out, to help one another experience for themselves the richness, the fullness, the overwhelming joy of God's great love.

**Love and Light in Christ**

**Pastor Mark**