

Readings for Sunday, January 16, 2022

1 Corinthians 12:4-7

from the Common English Bible

There are different spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; and there are different ministries and the same Source; and there are different activities but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. A demonstration of the Spirit is given to each person for the common good.

John Pavlovitz

in his book *A Bigger Table: Building Messy, Authentic, and Hopeful Spiritual Community*

Here's the thing about the ocean: until you experience it, no one can explain it to you, and once you have experienced it, no one needs to. The love of God is this way. For far too long, Christians have been content with telling people about the ocean and believing that this is enough. We've spoken endlessly of a God whose lavish love is beyond measure

The world doesn't need more talking from us. It doesn't need our sweet platitudes or our eloquent speeches or our passionate preaching or our brilliant exegesis. These are all just words about the ocean, and ultimately they fail to adequately describe it. The world needs the goodness of God incarnated in the flesh of the people who claim to know this good God.