I Waited

By: Ruth Bentley

Read: I John 4:7-21 RSV.

*Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.” I John 4:11*

I waited. I waited. I waited longer. But *it* never seemed to come. Day after day I waited. Gradually I realized that the problem might not be with *it* but with *me.* I needed to not only wait, I needed to look. But exactly what was it I was to wait and look for? When *it* came, would I know it? I had to have faith that it would come, otherwise all the waiting and looking would be for naught. What were my expectations? Would it come suddenly or would it creep up on me? Would I recognize it when it came?

Then I suddenly realized *it* was here, but *it* was not what I expected. Now it was my turn to take action—to seize the moment or it would be forever gone. After so many weeks, so many days of waiting and looking and expecting an inspiration for writing this devotional, I picked up my pen.

How like Advent my journey was! We wait. We look. We prepare. Then that for which we have been waiting and looking and preparing comes. God’s gift to us comes! Then it is time for us—you and me—to take action! “In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the expiation for our sin. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another” (I John 4:9-11 RSV). Our first step must be accepting God’s love for us. Our second step must be spreading that love in our everyday lives. What will we *do* after Advent? How will we *take* *action after* all the remnants of our Christmas celebration are packed away?

*Prayer*: God of Love, Help us to remember that if we love one another, you abide in us and your love is perfected in us. May our actions always be as generous and loving as yours. Amen