

## Advent Calendar: Day 19

The reflections for this week are centered around the readings for this Sunday's texts  
1 Samuel 2:1-10, Romans 12:9-16b, Luke 1:39-57

### Romans 12:9

“Let love be genuine: hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ”

Advent is a time of joyful anticipation of the realization of God's promise. It is a grace-filled season of new hope, new life and new love. There is a sense of urgency in Advent that wakes us up from complacency to prepare ourselves and our world for the full coming of the kingdom of peace and justice.

*Kay Murdy*

THE LOVE FOR equals is a human thing - of friend for friend, brother for brother.  
It is to love what is loving and lovely. The world smiles.

The love for the less fortunate is a beautiful thing - the love for those who suffer,  
for those who are poor, the sick, the failures, the unlovely.  
This is compassion, and it touches the heart of the world.

The love for the more fortunate is a rare thing - to love those who succeed where we fail, to  
rejoice without envy with those who rejoice, the love of the poor for the rich, of the black  
man for the white man. The world is always bewildered by its saints.

And then there is the love for the enemy - love for the one who does not love you but  
mocks, threatens, and inflicts pain. The tortured's love for the torturer.  
This is God's love. It conquers the world.

*Frederick Buechner*