

Reflection Wednesday 5th January 2022

Many of us would like to think that when we approach anyone, especially a stranger, that they would say *"Here comes someone who is incapable of deceit!"* as Jesus said of Nathaniel despite Nathaniel not thinking very highly of Jesus because he came from Nazareth. Despite being incapable of deceit did not mean that he did not have any failings.

The late Demond Tutu told the following story about discrimination:

A little girl walking down the street with her mother, stopped at a balloon vendor's stand. He was selling helium-filled balloons. The child was intrigued as she watched the balloon man occasionally let go of a string releasing a balloon into the sky— blue balloons, red, green, white, black, and yellow balloons! Marvelling that helium-filled black balloons floated as easily as red and green ones when the vendor let go of their strings, the curious child said, *"Excuse me sir, how come when you let go of the balloons—green balloons, white balloons, red balloons, even black balloons—they always float up into the sky?"*

The man replied, *"Love, it's not the colour of the balloon that matters. It's the stuff inside."*

Martin Luther King jr. said: *"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character."*

John reminds us that the stuff we have inside us that makes everything possible is love, since we have been moulded out of love and given the power to let it inspire all our thoughts, words and actions. This is why Jesus was born and become one of us, to teach us how to use this, the greatest of gifts, LOVE!