Divinely persistent, God really loves us

By Donald W. Shriver

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What's the gospel in seven words? We asked theologians, pastors and others both to answer this question and to expand on this in a few sentences. To see all the responses together as they're posted, bookmark this page. Add your own version here. --Ed.

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The Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead is working to infiltrate the whole creation with God's love. Paul's testimony to the work of the Spirit in Romans 8 is for me the key chapter in the New Testament. Dependence on--and receptivity to--the daily presence of the Spirit makes possible faith, hope and love in a human life. In addition, Romans 8 implies a cosmic work of the Spirit: the Spirit yearns for the redemption of the whole created world, not only us human inhabitants.