



September 22, 2024 – Pentecost 18 (B)
Explore the Way of Love: BLESS

The Christian tradition calls us not just to believe, but also to bless the world with the Good News that we have learned.

As the writer of Mark’s Gospel tells us, Jesus said, “Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation.” When we incorporate the practice of Blessing others into our lives, we are putting our love *into* action by becoming the Good News for others.

As part of the Way of Love, Blessing gives us a way to follow the example of Jesus. Just as Jesus was a leader and a teacher, he also was a son, a friend, a servant. Jesus understood the need to know and be known by those in his community and beyond. He understood that being seen, invited, and welcomed are ways of sharing blessing.



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Likewise, we are called to know and be known, in the name of love. We are called to see, invite, and welcome as living examples of Good News. Just as the apostles were called to give and teach and heal, we are called to give the gifts we have to bless, as God has given so much to us. To seek, name, and celebrate the presence of God's love in our lives and the lives of others is part of being good news.

We are called to work together as we share this love so that we are not alone in our work, but acting together as the Body of Christ, being his hands and feet in this world, we bring the Good News to life for people here and now.

Being part of a worshiping and serving community is part of the Good News. As the writer of Hebrews tells us: "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." We are called to give freely of our resources, our stories and experiences, our time and our attention. And we are called to invite others into this Way of Love. We blessed *ourselves* in the process. *Others* will be blessed in the process.

This is how the world will come to know who we are and what we believe: Through the way we bless them.

Will you commit to the practice of blessing others? Are there others you know who are blessing others, who you can join with to multiply those blessings?

Learn more about the Way of Love at episcopalchurch.org/wayoflove. You can find suggestions on getting started and going deeper with Blessing at iam.ec/evol.

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