

WINDS OF THE SPIRIT

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Love is the Way

Life is uncertain, but Love still finds a way.

In times of uncertainty and chaos I'm led to ask myself and others questions in order to try to find a way forward. Questions like: How do we find the way of love and hope in a time that seems so angry and fearful? What can we do to keep ourselves and others from spiraling downward into hopelessness and despair? How can we listen to each other more deeply, speak more compassionately, and love one another more gracefully - all in order to help us get through this in a better way than the way we've currently created? Ultimately, I don't think I have any perfect answers, however I do tend to lean on certain things to help me work through it, and to help me discern a more hopeful way forward. Trusted family and friends, music, the wise words of mentors in my life, and my faith in God all contribute in giving me at least some sort of clarity. What's helpful for you?

Lately, I've been reading the book by Bishop Michael Curry entitled, 'Love is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times'. It's the book we are reading in our book study beginning February 16, and Love is the Way is also our theme for the season of Lent. His book is full of heart-warming stories and words of hope.

Drawing on his own life and experiences Bishop Curry shares that, time and time again, when love is threatened by circumstances, whether that's broken relationships, a pandemic, poverty, racism, violence, or injustice, love has the power to shine through. This is not some sort of 'feel good, romantic, warm and fuzzy' kind of love. It's agape love. A kind of love that breaks through the walls that we put up between each other. A love that's

unselfish and sacrificial, and seeks the well-being of our neighbors. It's a kind of love that inspires and challenges us to do our part, to plant seeds of hope, and then watch them grow into something that transforms our communities and our world. Can you imagine this kind of love?

Bishop Curry writes: "Stop and imagine for a minute. Think and imagine. Think and imagine a world where love is the way."

"Imagine our homes and families when love is the way. Imagine our neighborhoods and communities where love is the way. Imagine governments and nations where love is the way. Imagine business and commerce when love is the way. Imagine this tired old world when love is the way. When love is the way – unselfish, sacrificial, redemptive – when love is the way, then no child will go to bed hungry in this world ever again. When love is the way, we will let justice roll down like a mighty stream, and righteousness like an ever-flowing brook."

"When love is the way, poverty would become history. When love is the way, the earth will be a sanctuary. When love is the way, we will lay our swords and shields down by the riverside to study war no more. When love is the way, there's plenty of room for all of God's children. When love is the way, we actually treat each other, well, like we are actually family."

I don't know about you, but I could use a good dose of this kind of love right now. I need to be reminded that somehow Love is working its way through all of this. That Love is finding a way through the cracks of life, even in the midst of chaos, to challenge us to do better for the sake of each other.

