

Prayer for the Human Family (Book of Common Prayer, p. 815)

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WHAT IS BELOVED COMMUNITY?



The term was coined by philosopher Josiah Royce to denote an ideal community, used frequently by Dr. King to describe a society of justice, peace and harmony which can be achieved through nonviolence.

In Beloved Community:

- Poverty, hunger and homelessness are not tolerated
- Racism and all forms of discrimination, bigotry and prejudice will be replaced by all-inclusive spirit of sisterhood and brotherhood
- Disputes will be resolved by peaceful conflict-resolution and reconciliation of adversaries, instead of military power
- Love and trust will triumph over fear and hatred
- Peace with justice will prevail

CORE VALUE OF BELOVED COMMUNITY



AGAPE LOVE

“The love of God operating in the human heart.... It does not begin by discriminating between worthy and unworthy people...It begins by loving others for their sakes... Agape is love seeking to preserve and create community.”

– Martin Luther King Jr.



BECOMING THE BELOVED COMMUNITY THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH



GROUNDING SCRIPTURE


"The first [commandment] of all is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself'" (Mark 12:29-31).

THE JOURNEY AHEAD



Becoming Beloved Community represents not so much a set of programs as a journey, a set of interrelated commitments around which we as Episcopalians may organize our many efforts to respond to racial injustice and grow a community of reconcilers, justice-makers, and healers.





Telling the Truth about the Church and Race

- **Baptismal Promise:**
We will persevere in resisting evil, and whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord.
- **Core Questions:**
Who are we? What have we done and left undone, regarding racial justice and healing?
- **Church-wide Initiatives:**
 - Census of the Church
 - Racial Justice Audit of Episcopal Structures and Systems




Proclaiming the Dream of Beloved Community

- **Baptismal Promise:**
We will proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ.
- **Core Questions:**
How can we publicly acknowledge things done and left undone? What does Beloved Community look like? What behaviors and commitments foster healing, reconciliation and justice?
- **Church-wide Initiatives:**
 - Regional, Public Sacred Listening and Learning Engagements



Practicing the Way of Love

- **Baptismal Promise:**
We will seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves.
- **Core Questions:**
How will we grow as reconcilers, healers and justice-bearers? How will we actively grow relationship across dividing walls and seek Christ in the other?
- **Church-wide Initiatives:**
 - Beloved Community Story-sharing Campaign
 - Reconciliation and Justice Pilgrimages
 - Multi-lingual Formation and Training
 - Liturgical Resources for Healing, Reconciliation and Justice



Repairing the Breach in Society and Institutions

- **Baptismal Promise:**
We will strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being.
- **Core Questions:**
What institutions and systems are broken? How will we participate in the repair, restoration and healing of people, institutions and systems?
- **Church-wide Initiatives:**
 - Criminal Justice Reform
 - Re-Entry Collaboratives with Formerly Incarcerated People Returning to Community
 - Partnership with Episcopal Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)

**BECOMING THE
BELOVED COMMUNITY
IN THE DIOCESE OF
VIRGINIA**

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- TELLING THE TRUTH
- PROCLAIMING THE DREAM OF BELOVED COMMUNITY
- PRACTICING THE WAY OF LOVE
- REPAIRING THE BREACH