

02-02-25 FOR THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK

“...Paul calls us to a more thorough understanding of a love that doesn't depend on the situation. It is a love grounded in our will, in our decision and commitment with God's help to love in the way of Christ. It is a love that looks outward, affirming that love is meant to be shared with others through acts of compassion and justice.”

Libby Baxter



Jeremiah 1:4-10 + 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Questions for Reflection —

- In what ways do you share Christ's love with others through your words and actions? How can you be more loving in your daily work or activities? How do you keep your heart and mind open to hear and act on new revelations of God's love for the world? What will help you step outside your comfort zone to share God's love with someone with whom you have fundamental differences of ideology, theology, and/or politics?

- How might what we do as a congregation in our programs and ministries be done with greater love? How are we being called to partner with God in love for those suffering oppression or injustice? How can we ensure that our church is a safe place (literally and figuratively) for people who are marginalized and vulnerable? How can we ensure we are open to God's work even when it involves taking risks or makes us uncomfortable?

- When/where/how have you recently witnessed or experienced injustice? What would it look like for you to confront injustice in your own circles (workplace or community spaces) with love? What kinds of excuses do you tend to use in order to deny or ignore God's call to be an agent of love and justice? What will help you overcome your own resistance and reluctance? What will give you the courage to put your baptismal vows to practical application in confronting injustice and oppression?

Daily Household Prayer

Loving God, in the midst of the cacophony of voices that crush our spirit and deny our calling, we come to hear your voice of affirmation. We come to hear your voice calling us to be and do what you have called us to be and do. Let this time of worship quiet our fears and energize us for ministry in and with your beloved world. Let faith abide. Let hope abide. Let love abide— here in this sanctuary, here in our community, here in our world, here in us. In Jesus' name. Amen.