



*Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*

Ephesians 5:1-2, NRSV

Dear Friends,

Generosity is a journey, it's a path we travel over time, through intention and application. It does not happen all at once or always look the same. Opportunities to share our gifts are always around us, if we only choose to see, to join in the Walk in Love.

Our Walk in Love finds its roots in the life and teachings of Jesus. Jesus reminds us we are to heal, visit, accompany, protect, advocate, and love our neighbor. We are asked to provide from our own gifts, our own treasures, for the good of others.

This journey is one we make together. We hear the words, "walk in love as Christ loved us" just before we begin our prayers for Holy Communion many Sundays as the Offertory Sentence. They are still hanging in our ears as we pass the plate, collect our offerings, bring to God the best of what we have.

This year, we have traveled together through the story of Jesus found in the Gospel of Mark. It tells of a time and place turned radically upside down. Old rules and customs were challenged, power and domination questioned, people felt hemmed in from all sides. They were seeking a way forward.

It turns out, it is not clever political machinations or physical force that made a difference, that show us the path. Rather, it is the simplest of actions: love and self-sacrifice which offer a new way. As followers of The Way, it is Jesus who brings about a revolution of thought and heart by daring to reach out to the outcast, the outsider, the injured, and teaches us to do the same.

Each of us answers the call to walk in love differently, just as each has been blessed by God differently. Our are treasures are entrusted to us so that we may share them with a world in need. How will you respond God's call to walk in love this year? How will you decide to share your gifts with God's people in the world?

The secret, the surprise, is that the most miraculous gift has been with us all along. All that is asked of us is to pay attention to it, tap into it, and grow with it. Love walks this journey with us, our steps along this path are counted by our generosity of heart, Spirit, and treasure. I invite you to *Walk in Love*.

Yours in Christ,

Peter