



The Episcopal Diocese of Northern California

OFFICE OF
THE BISHOP

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Jesus said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." Matthew 22:37-40

Beloved People of God,

I am hearing daily stories from migrants and their friends about the confusion and distress they face as their lives have turned upside down by the fear of the unknown, of separation and potential violence.

The care and support we offer arises directly from biblical mandates in the Old and New Testaments and specifically from our Savior, Jesus, to love our neighbor. Here is a short list of examples, in addition to the Matthew passage that opens this message: [Leviticus 19:18](#); [Matthew 5:43](#); [Matthew 19:19](#); [Mark 12:33](#); [Luke 10:27](#); [Romans 13:9](#); [Galatians 5:14](#); [James 2:8](#).

As a Christian denomination, we have a long history of offering loving service to immigrant families. When conflict erupts abroad, new families seek refuge here and we are blessed by their work and presence. Indeed, we are a nation filled with immigrants from many generations and all corners of the world.

In the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California, we will continue to support neighbors of all sorts, equipping them with food, childcare, education, and information to know their rights. These are our tangible acts of mercy, and our spiritual work is even deeper:

- We are a people of prayer: praying for all elected leaders and those in need every Sunday.
- We are a people growing in Christ: we know God is cultivating a spirit of loving-kindness in our congregations and in our hearts.
- We are a people who are welcoming: people who feel tossed by chaos and fear can find a safe haven with us.
- We are a people with a living relationship to Christ: we can listen deeply and compassionately to those who feel alone.
- We are a people called to walk with each other: we accompany all who walk a difficult road, even as we ourselves are being companioned by our Savior.
- We are a people called by Christ to pray and give persistent loving service.

This is how we love our neighbor.

As we learn to navigate the changes affecting our houses of worship and funding for aid programs, we will be convening sessions with experts to help ensure we understand our rights and responsibilities. We will share details on these educational opportunities as they are solidified. Despite the emerging challenges to our work, we continue to be guided by our Church's mission to love our neighbors.

"I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, being rooted and grounded in love." Ephesians 3:16-17.

In Christ,

The Rt. Rev. Megan M. Traquair
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