



**THE WAY OF LOVE**  
*Practices for Jesus-Centered Life*

**Diocesan Approaches to  
the Way of Love**

[www.episcopalchurch.org/wayoflove](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/wayoflove)

# THE WAY OF LOVE

## DIOCESAN APPROACHES TO THE WAY OF LOVE

How can dioceses commend the Way of Love to their staff, clergy, and worshipping communities? How might the voice of a bishop or other diocesan leadership serve as an entry point to engaging and reflecting on living a Jesus-filled life following the seven practices of the Way of Love?

A fuller list of diocesan, regional, and local efforts is available at [episcopalchurch.org/way-of-love](http://episcopalchurch.org/way-of-love).

### EDUCATION PHASE

Introduce the concept of a rule of life and the practices of Turn, Pray, Learn, Worship, Bless, Go, and Rest as part of one's daily life.

### HOW? Blogs, Videos, Email Campaigns, Sermons, Podcasts

#### Blog

Diocese of Central Pennsylvania

[www.diocesepa.org/blog/2018/09/21/turn](http://www.diocesepa.org/blog/2018/09/21/turn)

From Bishop Audrey Scanlan: "I love the physical turning of the candidate [in Baptism] towards the east – towards light and the sun, and a redeemed life. I love the intentionality of it. The kinesthetic choice, reflecting the inner, spiritual choice to turn to Jesus and to claim a different way. To turn, to Jesus – it is a powerful, physical symbol. You all know that I do a lot of driving. Miles and miles, across our diocese – sometimes multiple hundreds of miles in a week. In the practice of good driving and good road etiquette, I make the practice of using my turn signal – all of the time. I signal my intention to move from one lane to another – for the purposes of passing a slower moving vehicle, or to tuck back into the flow of traffic in the right-hand traveling lane. It drives me crazy when people choose not to use their own turn signals; to me, it indicates a lack of awareness of others, and sends a message of superiority or arrogance, and a disrespect for others in the same space. When we use our turn signals, it shows that we have an awareness of others around us, of the fact that we are part of a community and that our choices influence the experience of others. When we use our turn signals, we signal a shift: in our own orientation, and in relationship to others. When we turn to Jesus Christ in baptism, we turn with an intentionality to claim our place in community, in relationship with other Christians, and in relationship to God."

#### Video

Diocese of Olympia

[www.facebook.com/EpiscopalWesternWashington/videos/1898141326911967/](https://www.facebook.com/EpiscopalWesternWashington/videos/1898141326911967/)

Bishop Greg Rickel offers this invitation to practice the Way of Love with other Episcopalians around the world. After explaining the Way of Love and listing the seven practices, Bishop Rickel invites people to share their stories and provides the diocesan contact for resources and story sharing.

## Diocese of Western Massachusetts

A sample of Bishop Doug Fisher's videos

- Learn: [vimeo.com/316072844](https://vimeo.com/316072844)
- Worship: [vimeo.com/316072247](https://vimeo.com/316072247)
- Pray: [vimeo.com/316071523](https://vimeo.com/316071523)

## Email

### Diocese of Western Massachusetts

Every Friday morning for seven weeks, Bishop Fisher offered a commentary on the seven practices of the Way of Love, including:

- Worship: [bit.ly/FisherWOL1](https://bit.ly/FisherWOL1)
- Learn: [bit.ly/FisherWOL2](https://bit.ly/FisherWOL2)

### Diocese of Southwestern Virginia

A Weekly Invitation to Revival (in advance of the diocese's Episcopal Revival on January 25-27, 2019): "We have accepted Presiding Bishop Curry's invitation to take up The Way of Love, a 'rule of life' focused on practices for Jesus-Centered Life. Therefore, as we prepare for Episcopal Revival at our Annual Convention at the end of January, each week we are lifting up one of the seven practices for a Jesus-Centered Life. Be on the lookout for these weekly messages to prepare us for Revival."

## Sermon Podcast

### Diocese of Washington

[experiencingjesuswithbishopmariann.simplecast.fm/episodes](https://experiencingjesuswithbishopmariann.simplecast.fm/episodes)

Bishop Mariann Budde led this eight-week journey of experiencing Jesus through a rule of life known as the Way of Love. In this eight-part sermon series, she talks about how experiencing Jesus through intentional spiritual practices will transform you and those around you.

## Website

### Diocese of West Texas

[christianformation-dwtx.org/category/way-of-love/](https://christianformation-dwtx.org/category/way-of-love/)

This was a seasonal study on the Way of Love through image and reflection prompts using the Advent curriculum developed by the Way of Love Working Group.

## EXPLORATORY PHASE

Go deeper into learning how to create one's own personal rule of life and engage with each of the practices.

## HOW? Retreats and events with the Way of Love as the theme

### Way of Love Lectionary, Diocese of Washington

[www.edow.org/files/4415/3444/2003/DIOWASH\\_Way\\_of\\_Love\\_Sunday\\_Lectionary\\_.pdf](https://www.edow.org/files/4415/3444/2003/DIOWASH_Way_of_Love_Sunday_Lectionary_.pdf)

Bishop Budde's team crafted a set of eight Sunday propers, each with a collect and readings that serve to introduce the Way of Love and focus on one of the practices.

### **Regional Events, Diocese of Central New York**

[cnyepiscopal.org/event/way-of-love-2019/all/](http://cnyepiscopal.org/event/way-of-love-2019/all/)

The Way of Love framework is a rule of life for being a faithful follower of Jesus. These free workshops explore how we can use the Way of Love in our own spiritual lives and how we can introduce and share it in our congregations. Whether you're a new Episcopalian, a clergy person, a vestry member, or ministry leader, you'll enjoy discovering new, robust spiritual practices in this workshop! Youth in grades 6 and up are welcome, too.

### **Living the Way of Love, Diocese of Alabama**

[www.churchpublishing.org/livingthewayoflove](http://www.churchpublishing.org/livingthewayoflove)

In fall 2018, Mary Bea Sullivan, a member of the Diocesan Commission on Spirituality, formed small groups of women who gathered for seven weeks in living rooms, churches, and wherever life happens. Each week, they lived with and reflected on a practice along the Way of Love. In spring 2019, the Commission is forming more groups and hosting Way of Love retreats for participants who can join in-person or virtually. Daily reflections on their experience – and an eight-session guide – are part of Sullivan's book, *Living the Way of Love: A 40-Day Devotional*.

### **Congregational Development Commission, Diocese of Rhode Island**

[www.episcopalri.org/ministries/way-of-love/](http://www.episcopalri.org/ministries/way-of-love/)

The Congregational Development Commission (CDC) plans to engage the diocese in two years of incorporating the Way of Love into our personal and corporate lives. Congregations and individuals are invited to focus on each spiritual practice for three months.

## **NORMATIVE PHASE**

Integrate each of the seven practices as part of the life of the diocese. Engage clergy and individuals into “taking this on” as the heart of our practice and identity as the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement.

### **HOW? Infusing events that regularly occur in your diocese with the Way of Love**

#### **Diocesan Convention Booklet, Diocese of Michigan**

[www.episcopalchurch.org/files/wol\\_journal\\_-\\_diocese\\_of\\_michigan.pdf](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/files/wol_journal_-_diocese_of_michigan.pdf)

This convention booklet from the Diocese of Michigan includes worksheets and personal reflection spaces based around the practices of the Way of Love.

#### **Day of Reflection and Discernment, Diocese of Newark, Diocesan Council**

[dioceseofnewark.org/event/way-of-love-2019](http://dioceseofnewark.org/event/way-of-love-2019)

The Empowering Action Team of your Diocesan Council invites you to join them for their 2019 Spring Workshop: Living the Way of Love. As the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement, we follow the Way of Jesus. His way is the Way of Love, and that love has the power to change lives and change the world. The purpose of this workshop is to build trusting relationships with God and with one another. When we meet each other for conversation, practice, and prayer, we learn how to love. A small group provides space for prayerful support and accountability as we seek to live the Jesus Way.

## **Congregational Development Commission, Diocese of Rhode Island**

[www.episcopalri.org/ministries/way-of-love/](http://www.episcopalri.org/ministries/way-of-love/)

The Congregational Development Commission (CDC) is kicking off a two-year process of incorporating the Way of Love into Episcopalians' personal and corporate lives. Congregations and individuals are invited to focus on each spiritual practice for three months. Learn about the kick-off event here: [www.eventbrite.com/e/the-way-of-love-kick-off-tickets-53316629474](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-way-of-love-kick-off-tickets-53316629474).

## **Youth Event, Diocese of Minnesota**

[brianprior.com/2019/01/02/way-of-love-2/](http://brianprior.com/2019/01/02/way-of-love-2/)

Bishop Brian Prior's description of Winter Light, a gathering at Kanuga that this time focused on the Way of Love: "Once again, I was blessed to spend the week between Christmas and New Year's in the mountains of North Carolina with over 150 young people. Your Missioner for Evangelism, Marcus Halley, joined me as the chaplain for the week, as we dove deeply into 'Creating the Beloved Community.' As we sent the young people forth at the end of our time, we encouraged them to utilize the Way of Love practices introduced by the Presiding Bishop."

## **Way of Love Lectionary and Propers, Diocese of Washington**

[www.edow.org/files/4415/3444/2003/DIOWASH\\_Way\\_of\\_Love\\_Sunday\\_Lectionary\\_.pdf](http://www.edow.org/files/4415/3444/2003/DIOWASH_Way_of_Love_Sunday_Lectionary_.pdf)

Diocesan leaders curated this set of 8 propers dedicated to introducing a rule of life and the 7 practices. Each week includes a collect from the Book of Common Prayer, along with readings from the Old Testament, Psalms, New Testament and Gospels. Congregations are permitted to use the lectionary in place of the Episcopal Church lectionary, and dozens have used the opportunity to integrate the Way of Love into their liturgical life.