



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 St. Augustine's 'ohana,

September and October is stewardship season for our church. **Stewardship means taking care of that which is entrusted to us:** our church family, our beautiful church buildings and the land it sits on, our community. This season is a time set aside to give thanks for the gifts God gives us and a time to share our resources to care for our St. Augustine's home.

Sharing with generosity is a journey, it's a practice that we learn and nurture within our hearts. It takes something as radical as Love to inspire us to share our time, talent, and treasure with others. This is a journey we make together, a **Walk in Love**.

As we have heard the stories from the Gospel of St. Mark this year, we've learned how society in Jesus' time was turned radically upside down. The laws and customs that had been in place for centuries were challenged under Roman rule, questions about power and dominion caused upheaval, and a culture hemmed in from all sides by oppression and subjection desperately sought a way forward.

As it turns out, it is not clever politics or force that cause change in society, but the simplest concept of Love. Jesus causes a revolution of thought and heart by daring to reach out to the outcast and teach others to do the same. He walks in love with the marginalized, with the poor, with the sick, and brings us along with him on his journey.

The most miraculous gift of Love is this: Love is present within us and has been all along. All we have to do is find it, tap into it, and begin growing it. What happens as a result? We learn to share, to give, to volunteer, to accompany others, to feed, to pray, to visit, to strive for change.

St. Augustine's is a place to BE the love of God and to FEEL the love of God. During this year's stewardship season, we will lift up stories of how we *Walk in Love* with each other at St. Augustine's and in our Kohala community. I invite you to share your stories of inspiration and connection with our shared ministry in this place and with each other. I invite you to *Walk in Love*.

In Christ,

Vicar Jennifer +