



Love Is The Way  
by  
Bishop Michael Curry  
Holding on to Hope in Troubling  
Times

# OASIS Protocols for Breakout Rooms and General Discussion A review

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Assign spokesperson/note taker at beginning of breakout session

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Ensure all participants have a chance to speak (if they want to speak)

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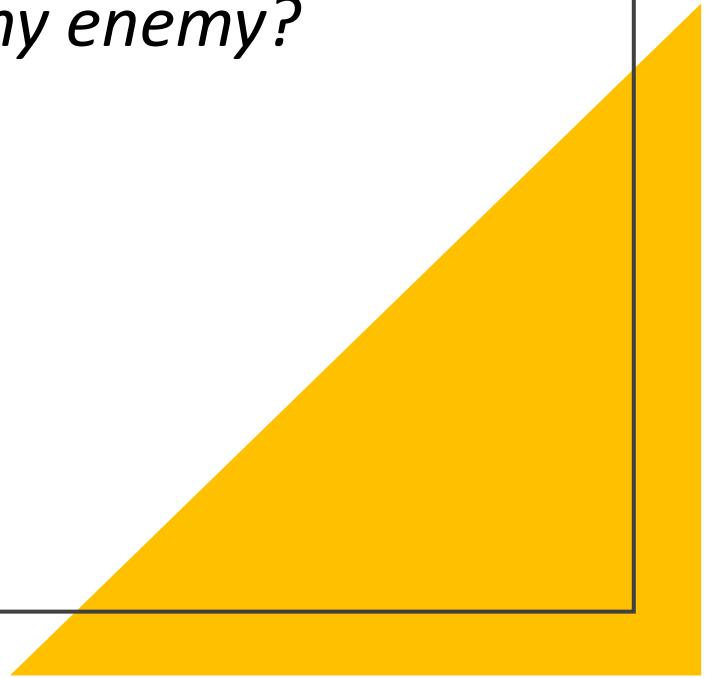
Be respectful in considering and giving feedback to new or different views

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When possible, a team member may be present in each breakout room to provide support

**The Real**  
**E Pluribus Unum**  
*(Out of many, One)*

*Do I have to love even my enemy?*



# Matthew

## 5 : 44

<sup>44</sup> But I tell you, love your  
enemies and pray for those who  
persecute you,

*NRSV*

# Quick Synopsis



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Bishop Curry elected as presiding bishop of The Episcopal Church in 2015 by same convention that voted to change marriage canon to be gender neutral, but the rest of the Anglican Communion was not ready to accept gay marriage

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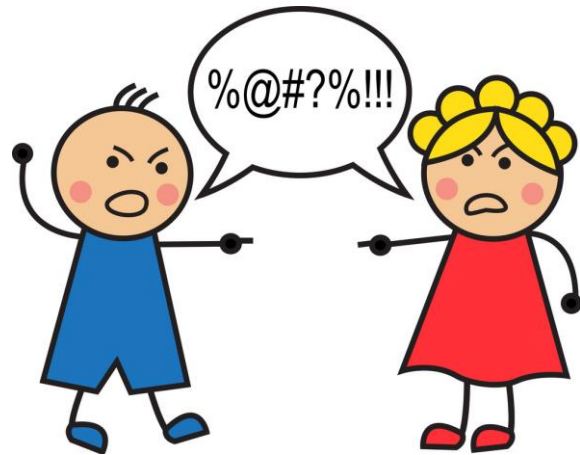
Archbishop of Canterbury called for a meeting of church leaders to determine how to proceed forward; would The Episcopal Church be suspended from the communion?

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A lot was at stake if the communion fractured. “The result would be real harm to [those] living in circumstances that require the church’s support and protection.”

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In the midst of their vast disagreement, they agreed to walk “...together in [Christ’s] love, despite [their] differences....”  
Essentially, **they agreed to love first and agree later**



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The disagreement in the Anglican church is not unlike the severe disagreements occurring daily in our world – whether on the news, in our homes, on social media, etc.

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One big difference - love is not at the center of most disagreements

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According to Bishop Curry, **“Contempt is the belief that the person who disagrees with you isn’t just wrong, but worthless.”**

# Breakout 1

“Contempt is the belief that the person who disagrees with you isn’t just wrong, but worthless.”

- When have you personally struggled with feelings of contempt for another person or group of people?
- How have those feelings hindered your ability to move forward and make a change you wanted?
- What impact might deciding **to love first and agree later** have for you in that situation?



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Bishop Curry describes his experience of getting to know each other as individuals

*“We couldn’t demonize each other when we knew each other well”*

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Using the parable of the Good Samaritan, he reminds his readers that the Samaritan demonstrated love as a commitment to do what is right and good

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**“Jesus doesn’t say ‘like your enemies’ ....Let’s all stop worrying about whether we like each other and choose to believe instead that we’re capable of doing good together.”**

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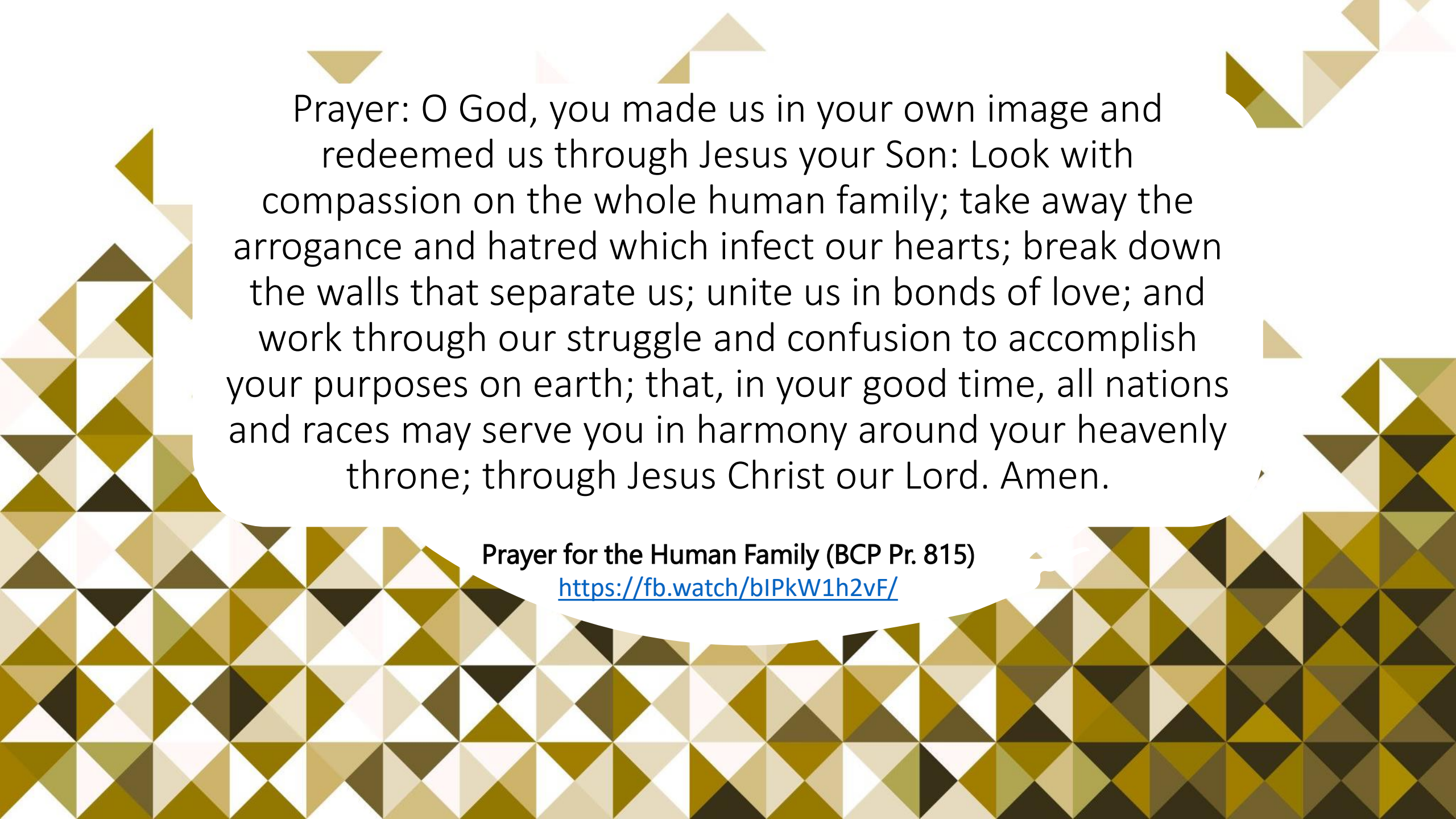
Let’s be honest, what Bishop Curry (and, really, Jesus) is asking us to do is REALLY HARD!



# Breakout 2

“Let’s all stop worrying about whether we like each other and choose to believe instead that we’re capable of doing good together.”

- Describe a time when getting to know someone with a different opinion **prevented you from demonizing them or changed your opinion**
- Thinking about the quote to the left, how have you personally struggled to live or had success living this way?
- Have you experienced a time when you “agreed to love” even when you didn’t agree with someone, or have you witnessed others doing this? **What was the outcome?**



Prayer: O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for the Human Family (BCP Pr. 815)

<https://fb.watch/bIPkW1h2vF/>