

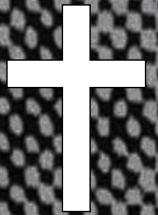
SOURCES:

“History.” The Episcopal Church, 13 May 2025
New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition (NRSVue)
Songs for the Holy Other (2019)
General Convention, Journal of the General Convention of...The
Episcopal Church, Minneapolis 1976 (New York: General
Convention, 1977), p. C-109.



The
Episcopal
Church

QUEERLY
BELOVED



Contents:

1: History

A short history of queer acceptance in the Episcopal church.

2: Prayers

Suggested passages from the Book of Common prayer.

3 & 4: Bible Talk

Short analysis of queer acceptance in the bible!

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List of local affirming parishes

6: Blest Be The Holy Other

Hymn by Dan Windam

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF QUEER HISTORY

HISTORY

Since 1976, The Episcopal Church has recognized that LGBTQ+ Christians deserve the same care as non-queer Christians!

“That it is the sense of this General Convention that homosexual persons are children of God who have a full and equal claim with all other persons upon the love, acceptance, and pastoral concern and care of the Church.”

General Convention, Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis 1976 (New York: General Convention, 1977), p. C-109.

The Episcopal Church has been a pioneer of pastoral care for LGBTQ+ individuals, both Christian and otherwise. In 1988, the church established the National Episcopal AIDS Coalition, which supported care for people suffering while the Reagan administration ignored the crisis. The church also continued to reaffirm the belovedness of queer folks, even at the face of strengthened discrimination from governments. In 1994, the same year Don't Ask Don't Tell became policy of the US government, the Episcopal Church in New Hampshire elected the first openly gay bishop, Rt. Rev. V. Gene Robinson.

The Church was also ahead of the rest of the Anglican Communion, recognizing gay marriages in 2009, and pushing for Federal legalization in 2012. We also added liturgy to accommodate specifically for gay marriages! In 2009, the church also started reaching out in care for transgender Episcopalians, creating the TransEpiscopal group with the goal of working for those with non-cis gender identities!

50 years later, the church still affirms, and will continue to affirm LGBTQ+ people! Despite some elements within the Anglican Communion unwilling to grow spiritually, the Episcopal Church continues to proudly reach out for and affirm queer folks with love! Check page () to see which parishes in our area proudly affirm LGBTQ+ folks!



Blest Be The Holy Other

Dan Windham

EVAN
William Havergal

1. Blest be the ho - ly o - ther who has loved and lost and grieved.
2. Blest be the ho - ly o - ther who's en - dured the worst of all—
3. Blest be the ho - ly o - ther when the church has done them wrong.
4. Blest be the ho - ly o - ther now whose sa - cred worth we know,

The strife im - posed could not un - do God's love and grace re - ceived.
the ig - no - rant and pet - ty few that would de - ny their call.
God made us all, not just the men, to love and to be - long.
who teach us where and when and how God's tell - ing us to go.

Excerpt from: Songs For The Holy Other

Text ©2019 Dan Windham



Prayers

For Social Justice:

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart [and especially the hearts of the people of this land], that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP 823)

For the Oppressed:

Look with pity, O heavenly Father, upon the people in this land who live with injustice, terror, disease, and death as their constant companions. Have mercy upon us. Help us eliminate our cruelty to these our neighbors. Strengthen those who spend their lives establishing equal protection of the law and equal opportunities for all. And grant that every one of us may enjoy a fair portion of the riches of this land; through Jesus Christ our lord. Amen. (BCP 826)

For the Human family:

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. (BCP 815)

Affirming Parishes!

While all **Episcopal Churches** will happily welcome everyone, these parishes are participating in this year's Pride!

Houston

- Christ Church Cathedral
- Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church
- St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
- Trinity Episcopal Church
- Grace Episcopal Church
- St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
- Christ the King Episcopal Church (Atascocita)

Pearland

- St. Thomas Episcopal Church (NASA)
- Mosaic Episcopal Church
- St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Cypress

- St. Aiden's Episcopal Church
- St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Other Parishes

- Grace Episcopal Church (Galveston)
- St Michael's Episcopal Church (La Marque)
- St. Stephen's (Huntsville)

BIBLE TALK



Old Testament:

The Bible's core message isn't one of hate, but one of acceptance, forgiveness and love. Many use this to cover up their own bigotry, but the Bible is full of acceptance of queer folks!

The Loyalty of Ruth to Naomi

Do not press me to leave you,
to turn back from following
you!
Where you go, I will go;
where you lodge, I will lodge;
your people shall be my people
and your God my God.
Where you die, I will die,
and there will I be buried.
May the Lord do thus to me,
and more as well,
if even death parts me from you!
(NRSVUE Ruth 1:16-17)

This declaration of love present in the Bible is one given from Ruth to Naomi, commonly used in modern marriage liturgies. This pivotal declaration of fidelity in the Bible is given to a woman by another, and the lesson of Ruth is clear: that love can extend beyond the laws of one's borders or customs.

New Testament:

The Ethos of Love

For Christians, our ethos of love is outlined very clearly in the gospel of John. The greatest commandment.

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us. (NRSVUE I John 4:7-12)

Philip and The Eunuch

As they were going along the road, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. (NRSVUE Acts 8:36-38)

The actions of Philip in baptizing a eunuch is revolutionary. Eunuchs were considered outside of the bounds of male and female, and were often considered to be in the margins of society. Jesus himself tells his followers "blessed are the eunuchs", and this verse should show that ever since the early days of the church those in the margins should be considered welcome!

"God has shown me that I should not call anyone profane or unclean" (Acts 10:28). - Peter, the apostle.