Sermon Title: "What Do You Do When Jesus Loves You?"
The Most Reverend Michael Kelly, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church
Date: February 27, 2022
Scripture: John 13: 31-35

31 When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. **32** If God has been glorified in him,[a] God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. **33** Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' **34 I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. 35** By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." [Key verse emphasized]

Summary

Most of us have sung "Jesus Loves Me" from the time we were young, but the question is what to do about the fact that Jesus love us. The command to love one another is present throughout scripture, beginning in the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament). So why does Jesus say in John 13: 34 that he is giving a "new" commandment? The new part is that we love one another, all of our siblings, everyone, *just as Jesus loves us.* God came into the world in the person of Jesus Christ to show us the way– to show us the meaning of love. We are charged with passing that love along to others, others beyond religion, beyond race, beyond differences. And when we do so, when we love ALL people the way that Jesus loves us we move toward creating the beloved community.

Reflection Questions

1. Describe your first memory of hearing or singing the song, "Jesus Loves Me"?
2. What did knowing Jesus loved you mean to you when you first heard the song? What does it mean to you now?
3. What do you think it means to love others the way Jesus loves us?
4. Whom do you have a "hard time" loving? Why?
5. How can this passage help you to love those whom you have deemed "unlovable"?
6. How can Ebenezer "everywhere" apply this passage to move the world closer to a beloved community?