

“Never let anyone drag you so low as to make you hate them.”

Only a few pages into Presiding Bishop Michael Curry’s book *Love Is the Way*, these words virtually jumped off the page at me. In a time when some equate hate with patriotism, these words call us to honor our responsibility as Christians. For those who choose to embrace it, this mindset is truly empowering. Hating another hands them power over you.

Young Michael Curry grew up hearing such wisdom from his grandparents. Poor in treasure but rich in love, they survived pre-Civil Rights Act America in part by recognizing that hate destroys the hater. Curry recalls, with awe and admiration, his family’s patient persistence and how they “made do” in tough times. “Making do”, he notes, is not surrendering or giving up. It’s figuring out how to survive and thrive in a situation beyond your control.

And that takes God’s GPS: love. It guides us if we let it. But Curry cautions that it must be a *verb*. It must *act*, especially when the going gets rough.

Curry’s father recognized love in action when he first experienced Communion in an Episcopal church. It was the 1940s, and he was astounded to hear the priest invite ALL — including the few black congregants — to receive the Body and Blood of Christ.... *from one communal chalice*.

He watched his fiancée go forward and held his breath. Would white people actually drink from the same cup that black lips had touched? *And they did!*

“Any church in which blacks and whites drink from the same cup knows something about the Gospel that I want to be a part of,” the senior Curry proclaimed. What a powerful tribute to our faith! And what a potent reminder of how love in action can create a chain reaction that blesses the world.

There is joy in this book. There is a celebration of love’s boundless power and examples of how we each can be love in action. Resonating with the strength of ordinary people living out the Gospel message of love, this modest, approachable book revived my hope that love can indeed redeem the world.