

Love Is the Way

by Rev. Dr. Robin Hawley Gorsline

One of my most important teachers was and is Rev. Dr. Carter Heyward, well known lesbian-feminist theologian. She was enormously helpful to me when i came out in seminary almost forty years ago, helping me to love a key truth of me that until then I had denied and disowned.

In *Our Passion for Justice: Images of Power, Sexuality and Liberation*, she writes,

. . . there is something basic among us, something evolutionary—and revolutionary; something more basic than females or maleness, whiteness or blackness, gayness or straightness, something more basic than Christianity or any religion. Something that is unchanging, stable, constant, precisely in its dynamic, revolutionary movement in the world. I am speaking of the human experience, and perhaps also the experience of other creatures, of love—or, of our human experience of God in the world. And so, if there is one fundamental category that can be appropriately descriptive, even definitive, of who we are—of what we are here to do in the world—it is that of *lover*.

The term “lover” is so often used only in regard to sexual activity, but that is to deny the reality that God loves us in all aspects of ourselves, and calls us to share that love with others. Indeed, I believe that our fundamental orientation to life is to love—love God, love ourselves, love others, love all others, including not only humans, but other creatures and all of creation.



So I identify as a lover—of the sexual kind when that is possible but so much more. I have even changed my email signature to include the words “Lover of All” in my self-description.

As I write this, I am looking out on trees swaying a bit in the breeze and squirrels chasing each other and hearing birds sing and peck the ground looking

for food. I feel love for them all, even the remains of the snow, all of us connected in the wholeness of creation.

And as I look out at the lovers I see am I reminded of my love for my husband, our dog, and our entire family, and so many more friends and neighbors, including our pastors and others in our faith community.

Jesus told the disciples, and thus tells us, to “love one another as I have loved you.” Many understand this as being limited only to that group at that time and now only to those who share the faith. I am as certain as I can be about anything that Jesus, God, instruct us to love all as they love all beings, human and others.

Love makes a way because love is the way.