

## From the Manse: A Thought for the Week

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2025

Dear Friend,

Family is one of God's greatest gifts. For some, family is a source of love, support, and strength. For others, family relationships can be complicated and challenging. Yet, in Christ, we all belong to a greater family—the family of God.

When Cain asked, "Am I my brother's keeper?" (Genesis 4:9), he tried to distance himself from responsibility for his brother. But from the very beginning, God's plan has been for us to care for one another. Jesus himself redefined family when he said, "Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother" (Mark 3:35). Faith unites us beyond blood ties, calling us to love, support, and encourage one another.

Being family in Christ means:

- ◆ Bearing one another's burdens—sharing in joy and standing together in hardship.
- ◆ Extending kindness, patience, and forgiveness, just as God does for us.
- ◆ Being present for each other, not just in words but in action.



This week, I was reminded of the beauty of family as my niece came to visit. We shared stories, laughter, and played games—these were moments that reflect how we are called to care for one another as brothers and sisters in Christ.

As we step into the days ahead, let us reflect on how we can be family to those around us:

- 🗨️ Who has been like a brother or sister in Christ to you?
- 🗨️ How can we be more intentional about welcoming and supporting those who feel lonely or lost?
- 🗨️ What small act of kindness can you offer this week to someone in your church or community?

This week as we consider these questions may we allow them to help us live out the love of Christ in all our relationships, drawing closer as God's family.

Blessings,

Rev. Jade