

Blessed and Beloved

By Fr. Brendan McGuire ©2026

We know that sometimes
to be who you are
has cost you dearly,
in your family,
among friends,
in the wider world,
and yes, even in the Church
that should have been the safest harbor of all.

That kind of pain is not small.
It is heartbreaking.
And whatever has been said,
whatever doors have closed,
whatever voices have made you doubt
that you are loved,
hear this tonight, gently and clearly:

God does not say what they said.
God has never said it.
God says only this:
You are mine.
You are loved.
You are blessed.

Tonight you are simply welcomed.
No proving. No earning.
No standing at the edge.
You are not alone,
and you never have been.

The door of this parish is open,
and the door will stay open.
This is not the end of a road.
It is the beginning of a walk together,
the long Emmaus road home.

So come in.
Sit at the table.
You belong here.
You belong to God.
And we will walk with you.

Amen.