Examples of love between people of the same gender in the Bible.

David and Jonathan.

"After David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself." (1 Samuel 18:1)

David says of Jonathan: "**Your love for me was wonderful**, more wonderful than that of women." (2 Samuel 1:26).

Ruth and Naomi.

Ruth expresses her devotion to Naomi with, "**Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live.** Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God . Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me." (Ruth 1:16–17).

Breaking down the clobber passages, often used to condemn others.

Brandan Robertson writes: "Simply put, the six references to homosexual sex in Scripture are all references not to consensual, loving, same-sex behaviour, but references to sexual exploitation, abuse and idolatry. If you open up the Bible to any of the clobber passages and read the entire chapter to which each singular verse or story belongs, you will find multiple references to the worship of idols and to other heinous, exploitative and abusive sins."

One of the prominent bible verses quoted against same gender relationships is from the story of Sodom and Gomorrah in Genesis 19.

This passage has nothing to do with consensual sexual relations; the sins of Sodom are inhospitality, threat, and finally, attempted sexual assault. Should this point not be clear, Ezekiel makes it so. Ezekiel 16:49 reads, "This was the sin of your sister Sodom; **she did not support the poor and needy**."

Created in God's image & diversity.

All people, including LGBTQ individuals, were created in God's image:
"So God created humankind in his image, **in the image of God he created them**; male and female he created them." (Genesis 1:27, NSRV).

The use of the two primary genders in this passage is likely a "merism", a figure of speech by which a single thing (in this case, humanity) is referred to by a phrase that lists several of its parts, but does not list all components.
For example: land & sea, high & low, flesh & bone. In particular when "day & night" is named in the creation story, it is a merism, expressing that dusk, afternoon, midnight & more, is also created.

Jesus acknowledged that gender variance exists, and he did not condemn it.

"For there are eunuchs who were born that way, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by others—and **there are those who choose to live like eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven**." (Matthew 19:12)

Rainbows are Circles, Sam Mackie

In the quiet, heard you asking,
'What is a blessing?'
So I looked up, and saw,
The rainbow holding us all.

There is no pot at its end.
In fact it is endless, It is eternal,
Perhaps it is always there.
Only showing when the droplets fall.

Every colour, namable & unnameable.
Even more spectacular together.
Even more Holy in its diversity.
Even more the blessing in its
authenticity.

Our world's too busy turning.
Obscuring, limiting, shrouding it.
Taking no notice of half it,
Only interested in monetizing it.

But you know, this rainbow:
It is a blessing;
It is you. It is me.
We are the blessing.

So take this blessing, and bless;
The body no longer repressed,
Bless the material holding your chest,
Bless it all.

Bless the feet hurting from stilettos,
Bless the voice so low that it echoes,
Bless the feeling in your skin,
Bless the razor scraped across your
chin.

Bless it all,
this body that has carried you;
This name that carries you.
Bless our existing,
Glowing as much as our resisting.

Bless the comfy laugh,
And not hiding from photographs.
Bless the cuts and wounds,
And blowout tattoos.

Then bless, this rainbow,
this cacophony of colour.
Bless you, and bless me,
Endless and eternal.

Bless it all, bless it all,
bless it all.

LGBTQ+ with questions about the Christian faith?

We are all equal.

God welcomes people of all genders and sexual identities.

"There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for **you are all one in Christ Jesus**." (Galatians 3:28)

You are not a mistake.

God did not make a mistake in creating LGBTQ people.

"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am **fearfully and wonderfully made**; your works are wonderful, I know that full well." (Psalm 139:13-14)

Jesus accepted everyone.

Jesus spent a great deal of his time with societies outsiders and outcasts.

Jesus gladly socialised with people that the religious establishment disapproved of. (Matthew 9:11)

He expressed how important it was for the house of worship being for all people. He was angry to find people acting as gatekeepers to God. (Mark 11:17)

Loving ourselves can be one of the biggest challenges we face.

We often can live as if we need to earn love, or have to live a normative life to be loved by church.

Paul wrote to a new Christian community to assure them that **"Nothing can separate us from the love of God."** (Rom 8:38)

Paul wants to assure us that nothing in the creation, despite how vast and unfathomable it may seem, is able to separate us from God's love.

Diversity is not a mistake.

The Church needs its LGBTQ members.

"The human body has many parts, but the **many parts make up one whole body**. So it is with the body of Christ. Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and **we all share the same Spirit**." (1 Corinthians 12:12-13)

One of the largest themes in the Bible is love.

Words do not do justice to the experience of genuine unconditional love.

Christians are asked to love God, and love our neighbour, as ourselves.

One of the final words Jesus leaves with his disciples is all about love: "A new command I give you: **Love one another**. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. **By this every-one will know that you are my disciples.**" (John 13:34-35)

Looking for an inclusive church or spiritual support?