

"When Love Is Found "

When love is found and hope comes home,
sing and be glad that two are one.
When love explodes and fills the sky,
praise God, and share our Maker's joy.

When love has flowered in trust and care,
build both each day, that love may dare
to reach beyond home's warmth and light,
to serve and strive for truth and right.

When love is tried as loved ones change,
hold still to hope though all seems strange,
till ease returns and love grows wise
through listening ears and opened eyes.

When love is torn and trust betrayed,
pray strength to love till torments fade,
till lovers keep no score of wrong but
hear through pain love's Easter song.

Praise God for love, praise God for life,
in age or youth, in calm or strife.
Lift up your hearts! Let love be fed
through death and life in broken bread.

"Fill the World with Love"

With the vision in our minds of how the world could be, and the fullness of our hearts from the suffering we see; when we make all that we are and have part of God's destiny, we can fill the world with love, we can fill the world with love.

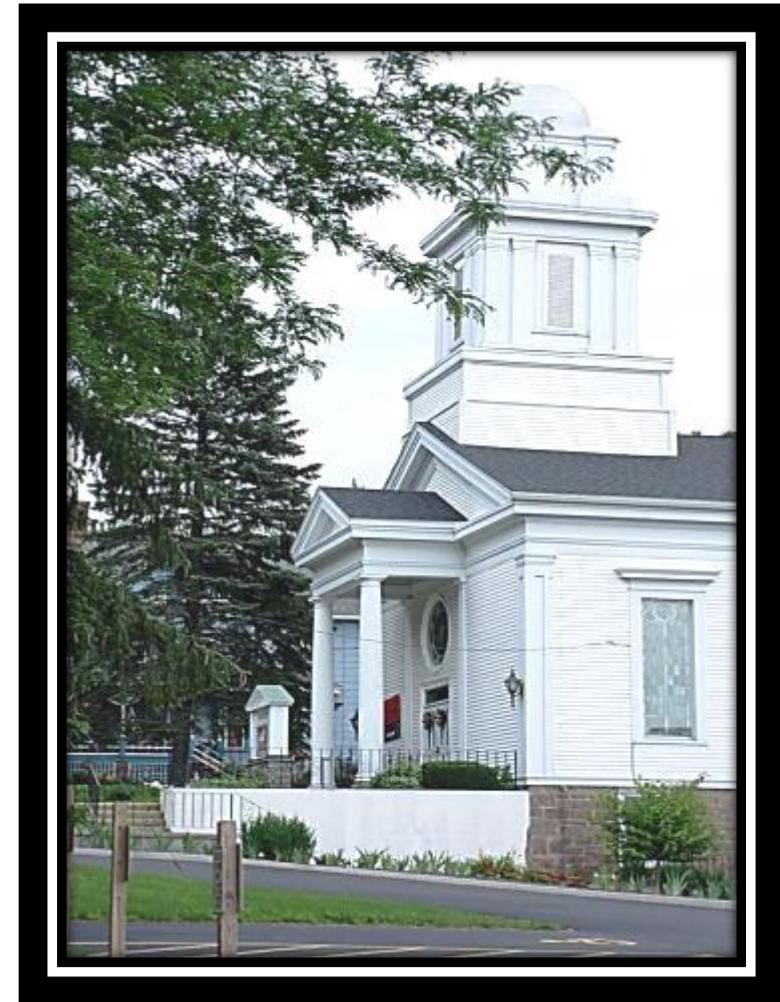
All the people in this world living lives of pain and fear, crying out into the night, wondering when someone will hear; while there are so many others having so much they can share, we can fill the world with love, we can fill the world with love

We whose spirits long to share, long to comfort and to heal, know that when we act alone, hope is difficult to feel; but together as we labor God's compassion to reveal we will fill the world with love, we can fill the world with love.

Let us hesitate no longer in our doubt and our dismay; there's a power at work within us that has promised a new day. And the time will surely come, it will not be long delayed when God fills the world with love, when God fills the world with love.

UNION CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday, May 2, 2021



Welcome

in Christ's name to all who are visiting.

We are an Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ. Please let us know you were here by filling out one of the guest cards provided by the ushers. We are blessed by having you here. May you also be blessed because you worshipped God with us



UNION CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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May 2, 2021

10:00 AM

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Music for Quiet Reflection

Greeting and Announcements

Prelude:

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We gather together today to grow in the Lord:

P: To bring forth fruit that is pleasing to God.

L: Watered with living water, fed by the Word:

P: Bearing the fruit of love to share with others.

L: Lord, we would grow with you:

P: Help us abide in you.

Opening Hymn: #499 "When Love Is Found" (*lyrics on back page*)

GOD'S PEOPLE LISTEN

Scripture Reading: John 15:1-8

L: God is still speaking to us through the Living Word.

P: Thanks be to God.

Sermon: "Bear Much Fruit"

Sermon Hymn: #467 "Fill the World with Love" (*lyrics on back page*)

Organ Response

GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND

Prayers

Prayers of the people

L: Lord, in your mercy:

P: Hear our prayer.

Pastoral Prayer

L: O God, may your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong, in us and among us. You are the Divine Gardener, who tills the soil of our souls, making us ready to receive your Word, who plants deep within us the seed of the kingdom of God, and who works for our good to bring forth a great yield. In love, O God, you grow us and enable us to abide in Christ.

P: Divine Gardener, you tend us in steadfast love, unending grace, and eternal faithfulness; you cultivate the life of Christ in us through your Spirit, whom you have given to us. Your Word is planted in our hearts. Your kingdom begins to flourish among us. Grant, O God, that we might abide always in Christ and bear the fruit of love. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Organ Response

GOD'S PEOPLE FEAST

Celebration of Holy Communion

GOD'S PEOPLE LEAVE TO SERVE

***Closing Song:** "Peace Like A River," recorded by Steve Valvano

***Benediction**

L: May our branches bow with the weight of the fruit you have brought forth from us. Help us to look beyond our own needs, to recognize those who are hungry for food, love and justice.

P: May we offer others what help we can. Love shared in tangible ways, the fruit of the kingdom of God nourishing us as give and others as they eat of it.

L: Now our service is ended. Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord:

P: Amen! Thanks be to God.

Organ Postlude: