

# The Irondequoit United Church of Christ

The Sixth Sunday  
After Epiphany



13 February 2022  
10:03 a.m. Worship

Ministers: The Worshipping Congregation  
Bridge Pastor: The Rev. Marvin W. Krieger  
Pianist: Rachel Dobbs  
Liturgist: Bob Miller

**Meditation:** *The glory of God is often revealed when and where it is least expected. God uses our lips to declare that glory, inexperienced and hesitant though they may be. God uses our love to demonstrate that glory and so urges us to exercise it. God uses Jesus Christ to direct us in how to love and to share beyond our wildest dreams; therefore, take heed, lest the glory of God slip through our midst unnoticed.*

## ✠ ✠ THE APPROACH TO GOD ✠ ✠

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey  
*All are welcome here!*

### SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 1 with additions

*Pastor: Happy are those who take delight in the law of the Lord.*

***People: They are like trees planted by streams of water. In all that they do they prosper.***

*Pastor: For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous.*

***People: May God number us with the righteous as we worship the Lord.***

*Pastor: Let us come to the time in this worship with our minds, our hearts, and our Spirits open to God  
Spiritual presence.*

***People: One step back and two steps forward as we allow ourselves to be open to God's love  
in often unexplored places and unexpected people. We may be surprised where love exists!***

### INVOCATION

Bob Miller

Loving God, we begin this new day in the sure knowledge that you have claimed us as your children. In all that we do, keep us mindful of actions that are pleasing in your sight. In all that we say, make us attentive to the witness we give to your love. Let our lives be an example to all whom we encounter, living as daughters and sons of God who follow in the path of Jesus, our Lord and our brother. ***Amen.***

### INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

Bob Miller

Jesus says, "I will show you what someone is like who comes to me, hears my words, and acts on them." This promise is for you who desire to follow Jesus at this moment. There is a place for you in this faith community.

### \*HYMN OF PRAISE

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" (vs. 1 & 2)

#43

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven to earth be found; fix in us a humble dwelling; all your faithful mercies crown! Jesus, you are all compassion, pure unbounded love impart; visit us with your salvation; enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe your loving Spirit, into every troubled breast! let us all in you inherit; let us find your promised rest. Take away our love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its Beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

### LIGHTING OF THE PEACE CANDLE by Gregory Coles

Dearest Lord:

If tragedy and chaos persist, keep us from apathy. Give us a heart that loves deeply enough to break again and again. Give us a passion for peace that only burns brighter as time goes by.

Thank you that your love has never stopped blazing. Thank you that no matter how many times our human race falls, you have never fallen into apathy. When we are faithless, you remain faithful. One day, I know, you'll give us a perfect peace that lasts forever. One day every sorrow will be erased and every tear wiped away. One day pain will be locked in a heavenly museum and hatred will be the stuff of history books.

But we dare to ask for peace sooner than that. We dare to believe, along with King David in Psalm 27:13, that “*I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.*” We dare to plead with you in the name of Jesus, in the name of the one who suffered so we could plead with you:  
*Give us peace! Amen!*

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (In Unison)** led by Bob Miller  
*Life Giver, Life Sharer, Life Sustainer, many of us have experienced the nearness of death either personally or with someone whom we love, and we give thanks for your restorative gifts of healing and health. We rejoice in your constant love and in the tender affection of our closest family and friends. When we have been wronged, we are happy again when justice has been brought about. Most of all we are grateful that you do not treat us as our sins deserve but with measureless forgiveness. All praise to you whose nature is life, but who in Christ Jesus shared our mortality that we might have the hope of resurrection and eternal life. Amen.*

✠ ✠ THE WORD OF GOD ✠ ✠

**YOUNG PEOPLE’S TIME** “Give THAT One Some Love? Are You Kidding Me!”

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**  
*Your love becomes a light, O Lord, that brightens up our days, and that is why we come to you and gladly sing your praise. May we become, in turn, a source of joy to everyone we meet, so that they may come to know that you provide the sun to warm their days. In love we go to places others fear, to tell to those with questing hearts that Christ the Lord is here.*

**EPISTLE READING:** [NRSV] 1 Corinthians 13:1-13  
*Christians in Corinth prided themselves on their spiritual gifts. Paul reminds them that God gives us many gifts through the Holy Spirit, but the purpose behind all of them is love, the kind of love that God showed us in Jesus Christ.*

<sup>1</sup>If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup>And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup>If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. <sup>4</sup>Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant <sup>5</sup>or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; <sup>6</sup>it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. <sup>7</sup>It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. <sup>8</sup>Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. <sup>9</sup>For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; <sup>10</sup>but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. <sup>11</sup>When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. <sup>12</sup>For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. <sup>13</sup>And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

**\* HYMN** “More Love to You, O Christ”[vs. 1 & 2] #456  
1. More love to you, O Christ, More love to you! Hear now the prayer I make faith to renew.  
In all I say and do, More love, O Christ, to you, More love to you, More love to you!  
2. Once earthly joy I craved, Sought peace and rest; Now you alone I seek, Give what is best;  
In all I say and do, More love, O Christ, to you, More love to you, More love to you!

**\*GOSPEL LESSON** [NIV] LUKE 6: 27-38  
*Jesus continues to address a crowd of his disciples. He invites his followers to shower radical love, blessing, forgiveness, generosity, and trust even on enemies and outsiders Living in harmony with God’s intent brings the reward of overflowing blessing.*

<sup>27</sup>“But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup>bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. <sup>29</sup>If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. <sup>30</sup>Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. <sup>31</sup>Do to others as you would have them do to you. <sup>32</sup>“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup> And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. <sup>34</sup> And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. <sup>35</sup> But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. <sup>36</sup> Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

37 “Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. 38 Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” [NIV]

**THE SERMON**   *“Sharing Love May Be Beyond Those Around You”*   Pastor Marvin W. Krieger

**BLESSING OF VALENTINE’S CARDS: the Gift, the Giver, and the Receiver**

**SHARING GOD’S BLESSINGS AND PRAYER CONCERNS**

**THE INTERCESSORY PRAYER**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** by Parker J. Palmer

*Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother, Holy and blessed is your true name.  
We pray for your reign of peace to come, We pray that your good will be done,  
Let heaven and earth become one. Give us this day the bread we need,  
Give it to those who have none. Let forgiveness flow like a river between us,  
From each one to each one. Lead us to holy innocence Beyond the evil of our days —  
Come swiftly Mother, Father, come. For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy:  
Forever your name is All in One.*

**THE OFFERTORY**  
**PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**  
**\*THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

⌞ ⌞ THE SENDING FORTH ⌞ ⌞

**\*CLOSING HYMN**                   *“We Are One In The Spirit”* (vs. 1,2,4)  
1. We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord, We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord  
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored, And they'll know we are Christians by our love,  
by our love, yes, They will know we are Christians by our love.\_\_\_\_  
2. We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand, We will walk with each other, we will  
walk hand in hand. And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, yes, They will know we are Christians  
by our love  
4. All praise to the Father, from whom all things come; And all praise to Christ Jesus, His only Son.  
And all praise to the Spirit who makes us one. And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by  
our love, yes, They will know we are Christians by our love

**\*COMMISSION AND BLESSING**   *(based on Psalm 130)*  
Pastor: Wait for the LORD,  
      *People: I wait with deep longing; and in his word I stand, waiting in hope.*  
Pastor: Hope in the LORD!  
      *People: For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with the LORD is great  
power to save.*  
Pastor: Go into the world with assurance, hope and promise:  
      the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ rest upon you;  
      the love of God, creator and giver of life, embrace you;  
      and the transforming power of the Holy Spirit uphold you,  
      this day and all your days.  
Pastor: Amen.  
      *People: Amen.*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*SUNG BENEDICTION**                   *“Bind Us Together”*  
BIND US TOGETHER, Lord, Bind us together, With cords that cannot be broken.  
Bind us together, Lord, Bind us together, Bind us together with love.

There is only one God, There is only one King; There is only one Body, That is why we sing:  
[REPEATS]

**\*POSTLUDE**

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*\*All who are able are invited to stand in body or spirit.*

Acknowledgements: Meditation from UCC’s “Sundays and Seasons Year C 2022”, Invocation from “Feasting on the Word”; Prayer of Thanksgiving from “Prayers for the Seasons of God’s People” by David Hostetter, Prayer for Illumination from “Sing Praises to His Name” by Louis Pratt; Commission and Blessing by Jeff Shrowder. *Hymn #456 More Love to You, O Christ – Public Domain, Hymn #43 Love Divine, All Love Exceeding Words alterations copyright 1992 The Pilgrims Press.*

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What We’re About:  
**Uniting a Community Together in Christ’s Love**

*The Candle of Hope upon our Communion Table is a symbol of our concern and our hope for our sisters and brothers who have diseases which are presently considered incurable, and also for a cure of the COVID virus and it’s variants. It is lighted each Sunday to remind us of our mission to pray for and minister to persons in need.*