



Riverside  
Congregational  
Church  
September 19, 2021

## Pass it On

It only takes a spark to get a fire going, and soon all those around can warm up in its glowing; that's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it: you spread God's love to everyone, you want to pass it on.

What a wonderful time is spring when all the trees are budding, the birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming: that's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it: you want to sing, it's fresh like spring, you want to pass it on.



## Pass it On

I wish for you, my friend, this happiness that I've found....  
On God you can depend, it matters not where you're bound:  
I'll shout it from the mountain top, I want my world to  
know: the Lord of love has come to me, I want to pass it on.



## Call to Worship

**Leader:** We rejoice and praise Your holy name today, O Lord,

**People:** Because you have kept us from a destructive path.

**Leader:** We give thanks because Your word gives us hope,

**People:** And we reflect on Your word at all times.

**Leader:** You are the Source of deep-seated faith,

**All:** And our spirits are refreshed in your presence! Amen!

## James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

### Two Kinds of Wisdom

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

## James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

### Friendship with the World

Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.



Sermon:

## As a Fire is Meant for Burning

As a fire is meant for burning with a bright and warming flame, so the church is meant for mission, giving glory to God's name. Not to preach our creeds or customs, but to build a bridge of care, we join hands across the nations finding neighbors everywhere.

We are learners; we are teachers; we are pilgrims on our way. We are seekers; we are givers; we are vessels made of clay. By our gentle, loving actions, we would show that Christ is light. In a humble, listening spirit, we would live to God's delight.





## As a Fire is Meant for Burning

As a green bud in the springtime is a sign of life renewed,  
so may we be signs of one-ness 'mid earth's peoples many  
hued.

As a rainbow lights the heavens when a storm is past and  
gone, may our lives reflect the radiance of God's new and  
glorious dawn.





Pastoral Prayer

## The Lord's Prayer

*Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.*

*Give us today our daily bread.*

*Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.*

*And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*

*For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory;*

*Forever and ever. Amen!*

## We All Are One in Mission

We all are one in mission  
We all are one in call  
Our varied gifts united  
by Christ, the Lord of all  
A single great commissions  
compels us from above  
To plan and work together that  
All may know Christ's love



## We All Are One in Mission

We are all called to service  
To witness in God's name  
Our ministries are different  
Our purpose is the same  
To touch the lives of others  
By God's surprising grace  
So every folk and nation  
may feel God's warm embrace



## We All Are One in Mission

We all behold one vision  
A stark reality  
The author of salvation  
Was nailed upon a tree  
Yet resurrected justice  
gives rise that we may share  
free from reconciliation  
And hope amid despair



## We All Are One in Mission

Now let us be united  
And let our song be heard  
Now let us be a vessel  
For God's redeeming Word  
We all are one in mission  
We all are one in call  
Our varied gifts united  
By Christ, the Lord of all





## Benediction

*God be with you,*

*God be with you,*

*God be with you 'till we meet again*

*O---God be with you,*

*God be with you,*

*God be with you 'till we meet again*