



*"Love For One's Neighbor"*



**THE 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER: RURAL LIFE  
SUNDAY AND MOTHER'S DAY  
A Service of the Word**

# The 6th Sunday of Easter

*This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.*

—John 15:12

## GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit gathers us in unity on the first day, the day of Christ's resurrection*

**Prelude** — “Prière” from *Suite Gothique* by Boëllmann

*Dr. Patricia Snyder*

**Welcome**

### Acclamation & Greeting

*One:* Alleluia! Christ is risen!

***Many:* Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

*One:* The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

***Many:* And also with you.**

### Call to Worship

*One:* God speaks to the heart,

***Many:* Offering compassion and hope**

*One:* God enlivens the mind,

***Many:* Inviting curiosity and wonder.**

*One:* God awakens all spirits,

***Many:* Fostering sacred connection.**

*One:* God nurtures our strength,

***Many:* Creating unimagined possibilities.**

*One:* God calls the whole world,

***Many:* Inspiring extravagant love.**

### Invocation

*One:* Creating Spirit, we join with the chorus of all of creation to celebrate your wondrous deeds. Fill us with your joy and train our ears for harmony, so that we may contribute to the world You are already creating. All this we pray in the name of Jesus, who revealed what is possible through love. Amen.

**Hymn** — “New Songs of Celebration Render” (Psalm 98)

**this bulletin, pg. 6-7**

### Prayer of Confession

*One:* Unwavering God, we keep asking what is it that you most want us to do with our

lives in hope you might tell us something easier. Instead, You offer the same answer every time: Love one another as I have loved you. We confess that our love for others is not always what we hope it would be. At times we are quick to judge and slow to offer grace. We hear the greatest commandment, and if we are honest, we are filled with hesitation because it means we must change. Unwavering God, in this moment of stillness, hear our struggles with the love you call us to practice...

### Assurance of Grace

*One:* Friends, hear the good news. God's love is so extravagant and inclusive that it knows no bounds. It transcends borders and speaks a universal language. Abide in that love. Find joy in that love. Be renewed by that love and then go sharing that love in the world. Amen.

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song*

### Refrain — "Alleluia"

CELTIC ALLELUIA

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

### Prayer for Illumination

#### Scripture Reading — Psalm 98

*Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands.*

#### Scripture Reading — John 15: 9-17

*On the night of his arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to his disciples to help them in the days ahead. Here, he repeats the most important of all his commands, that they love one another.*

The **"Alleluia" refrain** (music above) is repeated.

### Sermon — "Abiding in Love"

*Rev. Dr. Debbie Pallatto-Fontaine*

## Mary, Did You Know?

### RESPONSE

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*We begin our lives of responding to the gospel in prayer and offering*

#### Invitation to the Offering

*One:* What is it that you want to offer to the Church and to the world as a practice of God's love? Let us now generously offer our tithing, our talents, time, and service for the good work of this church and beyond.

#### Responding with our Gifts

*During the offertory music, while reflecting on the gifts we have to offer, those participating via Zoom are welcome to submit prayer petitions—joys and concerns—via the “Chat” feature in Zoom. These petitions will be collected together and transmitted to Pastor Debbie for inclusion during the time for prayers of the people. To protect privacy, surnames will not be used.*

**OFFERTORY MUSIC** — “Now the Green Blade Rises” trad. arr. Shirley McRae      *Adult Choir*  
*Tina Huey, flute, Handbells, Jan Castle piano*

Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,  
Wheat that in the dark earth many days has lain.  
Love lives again, that with the dead has been.  
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.  
In the grave they laid him, Love who had been slain,  
Thinking that he never would awake again.  
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:  
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.  
Forth he came at Easter like the risen grain,  
Jesus who for three days in the grave had lain;  
Quick from the dead my risen Lord is seen:  
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.  
When our hearts are wintry, grieving or in pain,  
Jesus' touch can call us back to life again,  
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;  
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.  
La-la-la-la-la-la-la!

#### The Prayers of the People, *ending with* The Lord's Prayer

**Many:** Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and glory forever. Amen.

*For the Lord's Prayer, we invite you to use the language most comfortable for you: "Our Father/ Mother/ Creator/ Holy One..."*

## **SENDING**

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*God blesses us and sends us forth in mission for the world*

### **News from our Life Together**

**Hymn** — "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

**this bulletin, pg. 8-9**

### **Benediction**

*One:* Friends, imagine what is possible. Imagine what our community would feel like if our own hearts embraced the unconditional love God has for us. Imagine what the nation would sound like if our words echoed the inclusive love God has for us.

Imagine what the world would look like if our actions reflected the unwavering love God has for us. Let us now go forth and do just that. Our worship service has ended. Let our service to God's people begin. Amen.

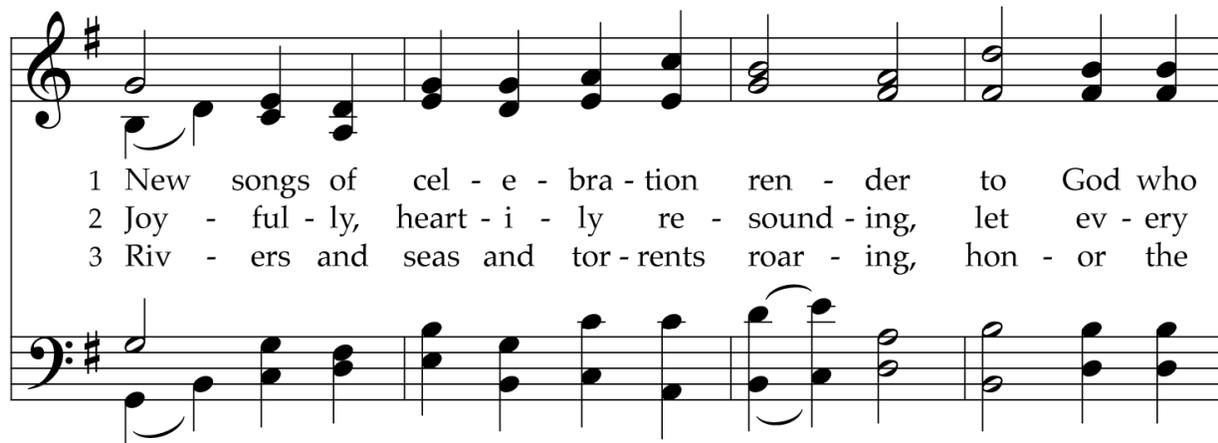
**Postlude** — "Prelude on HYFRYDOL" by Willan

*Dr. Patricia Snyder*

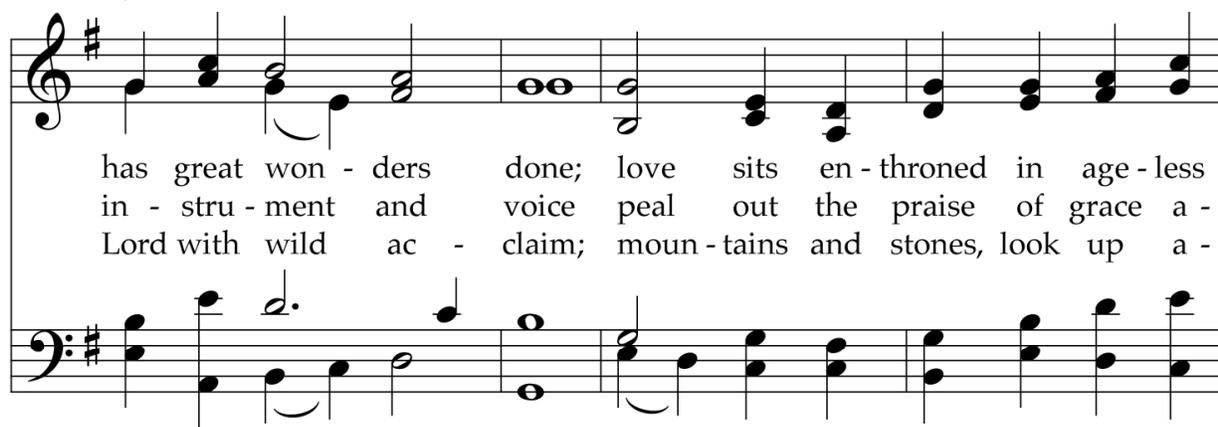
**Following the postlude, the Zoom Meeting will remain open** for those who wish to connect and chat—a bring-your-own-coffee "coffee hour"! Depending on the number of participants, we may break people into smaller groups using the "breakout room" functionality. We look forward to connecting with you!

# 371 New Songs of Celebration Render

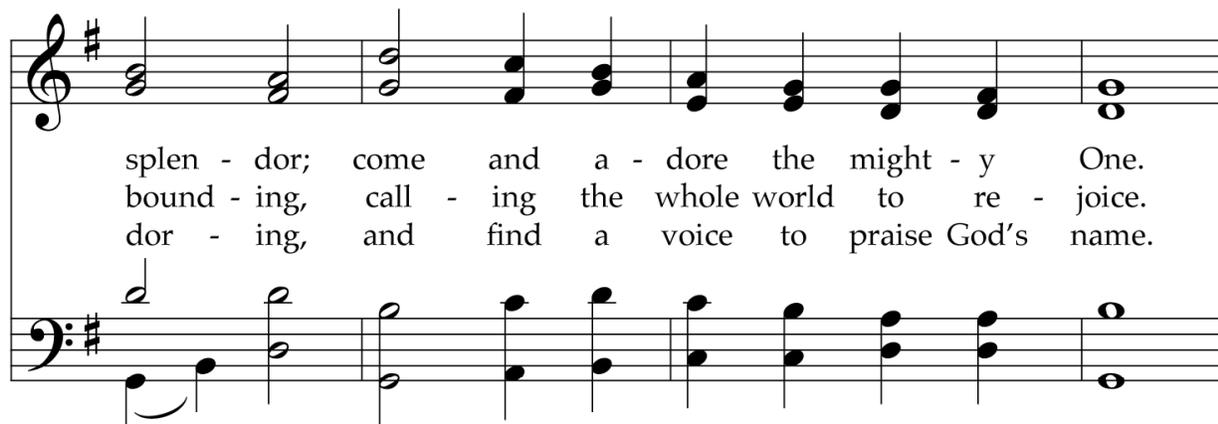
(Psalm 98)



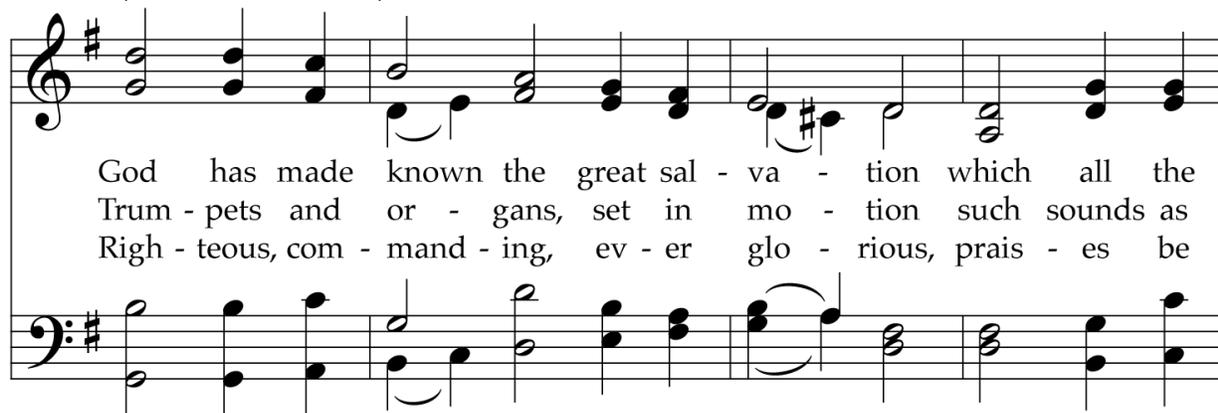
1 New songs of cel - e - bra - tion ren - der to God who  
2 Joy - ful - ly, heart - i - ly re - sound - ing, let ev - ery  
3 Riv - ers and seas and tor - rents roar - ing, hon - or the



has great won - ders done; love sits en - throned in age - less  
in - stru - ment and voice peal out the praise of grace a -  
Lord with wild ac - claim; moun - tains and stones, look up a -



splen - dor; come and a - dore the might - y One.  
bound - ing, call - ing the whole world to re - joice.  
dor - ing, and find a voice to praise God's name.



God has made known the great sal - va - tion which all the  
Trum - pets and or - gans, set in mo - tion such sounds as  
Righ - teous, com - mand - ing, ev - er glo - rious, prais - es be

saints with joy con - fess. God has re - vealed to ev - ery  
 make the heav - ens ring; all things that live in earth and  
 sung that nev - er cease: just is our God, whose truth vic -

na - tion truth and un - end - ing righ - teous - ness.  
 o - cean, sound forth the song; your prais - es bring.  
 to - rious es - tab - lish - es the world in peace.

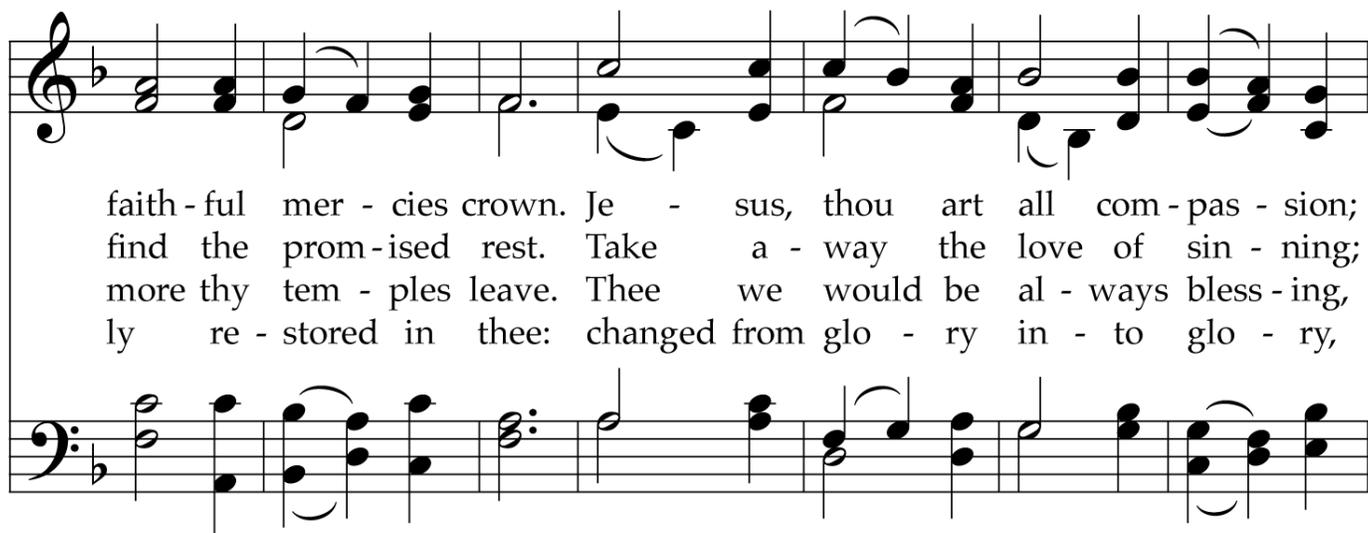
# 366 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven, to  
2 Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery  
3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy  
4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less



earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing; all thy  
trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us  
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -  
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion;  
find the prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;  
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,  
ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with  
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as  
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee  
 till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion; en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.  
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

## Notes and Acknowledgements

### Acknowledgements:

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**A Note on Giving:** *We welcome and encourage your financial generosity in support of the Storrs Congregational Church UCC! Giving back to God and God's mission through the life of this church is a part of your gratitude towards God and your faithful stewardship of all that God has entrusted to you.*

- **Mail:** *You can mail your check or money order to us at the church office*
- **Drop-off:** *You can drop off cash, checks, or money orders at the church office during the week.*
- **Online Bill Pay:** *Most banks and credit unions offer an “online bill pay” in their online account access. All you need to do is set up the church as another payee in that system, and your bank or credit union will print a check and mail it to us at no cost—you don’t even need to find a stamp!*
- **Online or text via ACH debit from a checking or savings account:** *By using our website giving portal (go to [www.storrscongchurch.org](http://www.storrscongchurch.org) and click the green “Give now...” button), you can make an auto-debit from your checking or savings account. (Note that we are assessed a small processing fee, 1% of the contribution, plus 35¢ per transaction. You will be given the option—and it is optional—when you make your contribution to add a small amount to offset the 1% processing fee.)*
- **Online or text via Debit Card or Credit Card:** *By using our website giving portal (go to [www.storrscongchurch.org](http://www.storrscongchurch.org) and click the green “Give now...” button), you can charge your contribution to a debit card or credit card. (Note that we are assessed a small processing fee, 3% of the contribution, plus 35¢ per transaction. You will be given the option—and it is optional—when you make your contribution to add a small amount to offset the 3% processing fee.) If using a credit card, know that we as a church do not want you to add to any debt load in order for you to contribute, as that’s not good stewardship! If using a credit card, please make sure, for your own sake, that it’s a card for which you pay off the balance each month.*

*If you have any questions about how to make a contribution, or about your giving history, feel free to contact our Collector, Donna Latincsics (contact info available through the church office).*

**We envision our community as a welcoming, historic, and progressive Christian community.** *We are an Open and Affirming congregation: Believing that each of us is unique and blessed with special talents from God, each a creation of God's love, alike and yet different, we open our doors and our ministry to all. We accept into full participation in the life of this Church: people of any age, economic status, gender, marital status, race, sexual orientation, and physical, emotional and mental capability. As a community, we will work to put aside all prejudices and to affirm and promote the worth and dignity of each person.*

## **STORRS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

***We share in God's love by growing in faith,  
courageously seeking justice, and generously caring for all people.***

*Ministers*

*Interim Senior Minister*

*Director of Music Ministries*

*Director of Faith Formation*

*Office Administrator*

*Communications & Digital Ministry Specialist*

*Sexton*

*All of the Congregation*

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