

An artistic illustration with a torn-paper edge. A white dove is shown in flight, its wings spread, reaching towards a hand. The hand is part of an arm wearing a red robe, reaching up from the bottom right. The background is a mix of dark blue and green, with a white dove in flight. The text 'A Liberating Love' is written in a white, cursive font in the upper right.

*A
Liberating
Love*



7 January 2024
Rev Steven Protzman
Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent

A Liberating Love

Order of Service

January 7, 2024

Love can work its way into improbable and impossible situations. Like water over stone, it has the potential to wear down our suffering, create new pathways of possibility, and support life in inhospitable terrain. Love can't fix every situation, but it does have a way of working on us and opening portals to our closed hearts.

—Rev. Jen Crow

Gathering

Music for Gathering

Welcome

Rev. Steven Protzman, Minister

Chime

Prelude

Tree of Love
by Emily Hall

Chalice Lighting and Words of Covenant

by James Vila Blake
Kathy Kerns, Worship Associate

Love is the Spirit of this church, and service it's law.
This is our great covenant: To dwell together in peace,
to seek the truth in love, and to help one another.

Opening Hymn

#1008 When Our Heart is in a Holy Place

Time for All Ages

Love
by Matt De La Pena; illustrated by Loren Long
Colleen Thoele, Director of Religious Education

Singing our Children, Caregivers, and Teachers to Their Classes

Thank you
by Barbara Dunn

You are the light of our lives. You are our hope for the future.
Your song fills the air with the love that you share, so thank you!
(repeat)

Reflecting

Holding One Another in Care and Compassion

*A time of silence, sharing our sorrows and losses,
pastoral prayer, and sharing our joys, wonder and awe*

Music Meditation

Open My Heart
by Ana Hernández

Readings

The Gift of Liberating Love
from Soul Matters

On A Day When the World Has Its Way with Me
by Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer

Reflection Hymn

#323 Break Not the Circle

Sermon

A Liberating Love
Rev. Steven Protzman

Returning

Offering

Love Now
by Marieme Diop, Robert Duncan,
Michael Jones, and David Nathan
Emily Hall, vocals Vanessa Vesely, piano

Extinguishing the Chalice

We extinguish this flame, but not the light of truth, the warmth of community, or the fire of commitment. May we carry these in our hearts and minds until we are together again.

Closing Hymn

#1014 Answering the Call of Love

Benediction



Next Sunday, January 14, 2024
A Legacy of Love
Led by Rev. Steven Protzman and DRE Colleen Thoele
An all ages service that will honor the life and work
of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Activities & Events: Jan. 7 - 14, 2024

<https://kentuu.org/calendar>

kentuu.org/news/announcements-events

Jan. 7 Sunday

10:00 AM Worship
11:00 AM Social Hour
11:15 AM Race4Justice Conversation
11:30 AM Brass Quintet

Jan. 8 Monday

Church Closed

Jan. 9 Tuesday

1:00 PM Staff Meeting
6:00 PM Rental: Fessenden Hall
6:00 PM Tone Chimes Rehearsal
7:00 PM Children's RE Committee

Jan. 10 Wednesday

4:30 PM Finance Committee
4:30 PM Knitting, Crochet, Needle Point
6:30 PM Peace Choir Rehearsal

Jan. 11 Thursday

5:30 PM Music Ministry Team (Zoom)
6:30 PM Presentation on Wolves
7:00 PM Community Sing

Jan. 12 Friday

8:00 AM Rental: Hobbs Hall Kitchen
1:00 PM Hobbs Hall Kitchen Reserved
5:00 PM Auction Dinner

Jan. 13 Saturday

8:00 AM Rental: Hobbs Hall Reserved
5:00 PM Gratitude Celebration

Jan. 14 Sunday

10:00 AM Worship
11:00 AM Town Hall
11:00 AM Social Hour
12:30 PM Hobbs Hall Reserved

Church Address: Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent
228 Gougler Avenue, Kent, OH 44240.

Office – 330.673.4247

Email – churchoffice@kentuu.org

On the web – <https://kentuu.org>

Facebook - www.facebook.com/uuchurchofkent

Church Office: The church office is located in the Eldredge Annex
(yellow house) next to the church building

Visit our website.



CHURCH STAFF

Minister
Congregational Administrator
Dir. of Religious Education
Transitional Music Director
Accompanist
Campus Use Manager
Nursery Staff
Sexton
Tech Manager
Affiliated Community Minister
Affiliated Community Minister
Commissioned Lay Minister (CLM)
Commissioned Lay Minister (CLM)

Rev. Steven Protzman
MaryBeth Hannan
Colleen Thoele
Emily Hall
Vanessa Vesely
Katie Kuras
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#1008 *When Our Heart is in a Holy Place*

Chorus: When our heart is in a holy place,
When our heart is in a holy place
We are bless'd with love and amazing grace,
When our heart is in a holy place

When we trust the wisdom in each of us,
Ev'ry color ev'ry creed and kind,
And we see our faces in each other's eyes,
Then our heart is in a holy place.

(Chorus)

When we tell our story from deep inside,
And we listen with a loving mind,
And we hear our voices in each other's words,
Then our heart is in a holy place.

(Chorus)

When we share the silence of sacred space,
And the God of our Heart stirs within,
And we feel the power of each other's faith,
Then our heart is in a holy place.

#323 *Break Not the Circle*

Break not the circle of enabling love
where people grow, forgiven and forgiving;
break not that circle, keep it wider still,
till it includes, embraces all the living.

Come, wonder at this love that comes to life,
where words of freedom are with humor spoken,
and people keep no score of wrong and guilt,
but will that human bonds remain unbroken.

Join then the movement of the love that frees,
till people of whatever race or nation
will truly be themselves, stand on their feet,
see eye to eye with laughter and elation.

#1014 *Answering the Call of Love*

The promise of the Spirit:
faith, hope and love abide.
And so ev'ry soul is blessed and made whole;
the truth in our hearts is our guide.

Refrain:
We are answering the call of love:
hands joined together as hearts beat as one.
Emboldened by faith, we dare to proclaim
we are answering the call of love.

Sometimes we build a barrier
to keep love tightly bound.
Corrupted by fear, unwilling to hear,
denying the beauty we've found.

Refrain

A bright new day is dawning
when love will not divide.
Reflections of grace in ev'ry embrace,
fulfilling the vision divine.

Refrain