

At this quiet time and in this place of worship we would seek to know more deeply what it means to love one another.

We know so well our own needs. We know that we, ourselves need understanding, affection and recognition. Why is it then that so often we hesitate to extend these precious gifts to others? The cost of a kind word is small. The moment that it takes to listen could hardly be better used. A gesture of forgiveness can mark a new beginning. An embrace or a note of appreciation can convey crucial encouragement and comfort. And yet, so often we fail even within our own families to live by the sacred command that we should love one another.

Edward T. Atkinson

We give thanks for our friends and families, near and far, and for all those who serve us to make our lives easier, whether they may haul away our trash or cure our illnesses. We give thanks for the life of Alan Mitchell and for the privilege and pleasures of knowing that generous man, that seeker of justice for all.

O Spirit of life and of love, strengthen our faith, increase our resolve to give more generously of ourselves. We pray for the courage to take the risks of love. We pray for the insight to see ourselves and others in perspective. We pray for humility and understanding that we may always stand ready to forgive and begin anew.

Let us be together in silent meditation, during which you are invited walk softly to the front and light a candle in silence.

Hymn # 123

Spirit of Life

Spirit of Life

Come unto me

Sing in my heart, all the stirrings of compassion,
Blow in the wind, rise in the sea,
Move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice
Roots hold me close, wings set me free.
Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.