

## **Reflection: “Called to be the Church”:**

Our faith community together can be messy and chaotic! But this is our church, and this is part of the world God loves—whether in moments of prayer and vulnerability or in moments of exuberant praise and laughter.

We love this church—all this life whirling around. All the ways that life evolves here: the welcoming of new beginnings, the grief when we say goodbye, the stress of family, the rush of planning, creating, and serving; noisy, noisy life. Messy, breathless, full and ready and dangerous even. Motion and energy, fearless. This is the world God loves. And to this world, God gives...everything.

How do you see the height and depth of God’s love in your community? Where are lives changed for the better? What are the ways you are at work with God in this world that God loves so very much?

Share more stories of God at work: stories from your own community, your local mission, and stories from Mission and Service of how God, through generosity, changes lives both locally and globally.

What does it look like for us to love like God, to see the world as God sees us? Can we love the world as God loves it?

Can we love the world with God?

The Mission & Service of The United Church of Canada is one way we can love the world—touching lives here at home and around the world, changing lives today and tomorrow. In our shared Mission and Service, together, we love the world.

Do we choose today to love this world?

Because it is a choice. Between life and death, we choose it all the time. To engage or to hide. To celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to seek justice and resist evil, we choose.

In the effects of our generosity known here at home and through the Mission and Service of the United Church, we catch glimpses of how we continue, despite fear or weariness, to choose life; we catch glimpses of how we continue to choose love. Together with God, who loves this world so much, we embrace and carry each other in love.

When we live in the light of a God who loves us so passionately to give us everything, and then lets us make the choice of what to do with that gift, we can choose life, we can choose generosity, we can choose to make a difference.

Thank you for the ways you choose to love this world, near and far!