

The Love That Goes Unspoken

A prize winning hymn in the Macalester Plymouth United Church Hymn Writing Contest, 2002

TUNE: *Llangloffan*, Welsh hymn tune

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1. The love that goes un - spok - en, that fears would force to hide,
2. As po - ets and mu - si - cians, in *Pi - e - tas* of grace,
3. In var - ied forms of fam - i - ly, in un - ions yet un - blessed,
4. Christ loves with - out dis - tinc - tion, both joys and sor - rows borne,



still blooms in clos - et spa - ces, too strong to be de - nied.
the out - casts of our church - es cast light on Mys - tery's face.
as sis - ters and as broth - ers and kin with earth's op - pressed,
and wel - comes o - pen - heart - ed the ones whom oth - ers scorn.



The Spir - it's wind blows free - ly to o - pen bolt - ed doors,
They trans - late for our wit - ness the gifts the gos - pel brings,
all dwell with - in God's house - hold, yet some bear in - sults hurled
We shall not then be shack - led with need - less guilt or shame.



and beck - on in - to day - light a love that hate de - plores.
and cel - e - brate God's gran - deur in rare and dap - pled things.
to chide the so - called "bar - ren" whose child - ren are the world.
In Christ, the love un - spok - en now dares to speak its name.

AUTHOR'S NOTE: The first line of stanza one and the last two lines of stanza four allude to the phrase "the love that dares not speak its name," originally coined by Lord Alfred Douglas in his 1894 poem "Two Loves," and subsequently quoted by Oscar Wilde.

Stanza two pays implicit homage to Michelangelo (sculptor of the *Pieta*), Erasmus (translator of a Greek New Testament) and King James I (commissioner of the King James translation of the Bible), Gerard Manley Hopkins (author of "God's Grandeur" and "Glory be to God for dappled things") -- and numerous others whose contributions have enriched the Christian life of faith.

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