



# LOOKIN' FOR...

## IN ALL THE WRONG PLACES

worshipdesignstudio.com/love

March 26, 2023  
5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent  
Look for the Liberator

***GUESTS**, Welcome to our faith community here at Union UCC. To learn more about us please visit our website at [www.unionucc.org](http://www.unionucc.org) or like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/unionneffs](http://www.facebook.com/unionneffs).*

*Please complete the Welcome Card in the racks in front of you and hand it in with your offering or give it to a pastor. This is a good way to let us know you're here.*

***Our church is a diverse family of believers, spiritually united in Christ, rooted in a rich heritage and growing with vitality into the future. We proclaim God's word, nurturing and inspiring dedicated Christian discipleship through worship, education, fellowship, pastoral care, and outreach within our community and the world.***

***One of our core values as a church is extravagant welcome and hospitality. We believe in God's inclusive love. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.***

Lay Readers: 8:00 Rosalie Snyder, 10:30 Eric Minnich

Ushers: 8:00 Cliff James, Carol James

10:30 Carrington Smith, Jim Lane, Jason Klinger, Susan Smith, Al Stubbmann, Karen Misera, Claire Kern, Gene Thrash

Greeters: Vicki Mayk, Ron Snyder, Doug & Angie Kuntz

Sound: Karl Klinger

*“Yet even now,” says the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting...rend your hearts and not your clothing.” — Joel 2: 12-13*

**The Christian scriptures offer many images of where love, grace, forgiveness, righteousness, and healing can REALLY be found. And it is not in the “usual” places. Isn’t it as true of us today as it was of the scriptural authors? Don’t we often look for wholeness and happiness in places that offer only temporary “good feelings” and satisfaction? Lent is a wonderfully reflective time to reassess where we are searching for meaning and purpose. We will move through stories of Jesus to find out who offers the “real deal.”**

**\*Please stand in body or spirit.**

### **Prelude**

Jesus, Priceless Treasure (variations 1 and 2)- J. Cruger/  
Zachau  
Susan Cervin

**Thank you to our guest organist Susan Cervin for her music today.**

### **Welcome**

### **Threshold Moment**

**Today’s Soloist: Jason Klinger**

### **Solo:**

Hearts open, minds awake,  
change us now for heaven’s sake.  
Leave us not alone in hatred’s wake.  
Show us how to love.

Show us how to love.  
Show us how, show us how to love.

*Leader:* Sometimes the things we think offer love actually seek to bind us, preventing us from being full and whole and offering our best love to the world. This season of Lent, we continue our look at our faith narratives that show us about true love. The story of Lazarus, whose funeral shrouds trail him out of the tomb, offers us a metaphor of new life as we recognize that true love is that which unbinds us, that wants for us more, not less, freedom and life. Jesus says to us, "Come out!" Walk! Live! Love! Shed your funeral clothes and offer your deepest self, your deepest love, for the world." Of course this kind of love can be dangerous, as we will see as the events of Holy Week loom closer. But the price of continuing to look for love in the wrong places is higher than the blessing of life lived boldly.

Solo:  
Eyes open, shocked awake,  
much to learn from our mistakes.  
Draw us closer in our heartache.  
Show us how to love.  
Show us how to love.  
Show us how, show us how to love.

### **Confession and Assurance**

*Leader:* Let us join together in opening our hearts to the love of God. Before we even utter a word, we can be assured God will offer us grace and a way forward. For this reason, we can be honest with what most pains us most about our own thoughts and actions. Let us pray:

Holy and Merciful One,  
in this season of discernment we come bringing our deepest  
longings,

and our failed attempts at satisfying them.  
We have often looked for love, for acceptance and security,  
in the mirage of certainty,  
believing that if we just hold things very tightly,  
we will survive.

*People:* **We yearn for lives that matter,  
we desire relationships that thrive,  
we want less regret.**

At times we fail to see that you have already given us what  
really matters:  
your love and acceptance.  
You provide opportunities all around us  
to make a difference in the lives of others.  
You give us a fresh start each day,  
inviting us to do better.

In this silence, we bring to you our pleas for openness  
to a different way of living.

*Silence*

My friends, be assured by the Psalmist who says,  
“In God, there is steadfast love, and the great power to  
redeem.”

Let us respond together:

*All:* **We open our hearts, our minds, our souls, our vision  
to the ways of love  
created by God,  
embodied in Jesus,  
and already moving in us by the Spirit.  
We are forgiven, loved, and freed!  
Amen!**

## **Peace**

*Leader:* The love and peace of Christ be with you!

*People:* **And also with you!**

*Leader:* I invite you to pass this love and peace to one another by crossing your arms across your chest, indicating love, and then opening them with the common two-finger sign for peace, [remembering to send some of that love and peace to those worshiping remotely].

**Please stand in body or spirit.**

**\*Hymn** #42 O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing (Black Hymnal, New Century Hymnal)

- 1. O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise, The glories ever echoing the triumphs of God's grace!**
- 2. My gracious Savior and my God, assist me to proclaim, To spread through all the earth abroad the honors of your name.**
- 3. Jesus! The name that calms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease Is music in the sinner's ears, is life, and health, and peace!**

Please be seated.

## **WE PROCLAIM**

**10:30 Worship - Story for All Ages**

**Education Hour for All Ages – 9:15-10:15am**

**Children's Church – during 10:30 Worship for ages 3-grade 5.**

Ms. Tiffany would like to invite children to join her and her volunteers for Sunday School at 9:15 and Children's Church during 10:30am service.

**TODAY: Pastors invite children forward for a children's time**

**and then to leave with Ms. Tiffany for a time designed just for them!**

Children will be in the basement and will return before worship is over. If worship ends early, parents are welcome to meet their children downstairs.

**Song:** Go, Make a Diff'rence    Angrisano, Tomaszek #199  
Sing! Prayer and Praise

Asus A  $\text{\textcircled{S}}$  Dm B $\flat$  C

Go make a diff - 'rence. We can make a diff -

Dm F Asus A

'rence. Go make a diff - 'rence in the world.

Dm B $\flat$  C Dm

Go make a diff - 'rence. We can make a diff - 'rence.

B $\flat$ maj $^7$  Asus A Dm Am Am

Last time, Fine 1. 2.3.

Go make a diff - 'rence in the world.

### 10:30 WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

The Mission Statement of Union UCC

Our church is a diverse family of believers, spiritually united in Christ, rooted in a rich heritage and growing with vitality into the future. We proclaim God's word, nurturing and inspiring a dedicated Christian discipleship through worship, education, pastoral care, fellowship, and outreach within our community and the world.

Welcome and Reception (ALL in unison)

**ALL: We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.**

Greeting of Christian Love

New members being welcomed today:

**Dale and Marlene Blose**

**Geoff and Sara Jane** Brace (Isaac)

**Rachel and Bill** Heyer (Hailey)

**Brady Kitz, Kate Kitz** (Samuel, Matt)

**Doug and Jessica Long** (Copeland, Parker)

**Kelly Paulhus and David Schwarz** (Tricia, Kayla, Alyssa)

**Justin and Lindsey Poremba** (Esher, Casimir)

**Testimony of Love Kerry Snyder**

**Scripture Reading**

John 11:1-5

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill."

But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the

place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again."

The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?"

Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him."

The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."

Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home.

Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him."

Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the



resurrection on the last day."

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him.

Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see."

Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?"

So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me."

When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

**The Message      Pastor Kris**

**WE RESPOND**

**Prayers of the People**

Leader: : Let us pray, singing "God have mercy" in Greek, "Kyrie Eleison:"

**Solo first time.**

Ky-ri - e E-le-i - son, Ky-ri - e E-le-i -  
son, Ky-ri - e E-le-i - son, Ky-ri - e E-le-i - son.

**Prayers for the World**

*Pastor/Leader:* Loving Creator, we come to you asking for strength to work for the liberation of our world. So much binds bodies, lives, and hearts, keeping so many from

freedom and full life. Death comes in many forms, choking out flourishing. We grieve what seems at times like the death of hope. Show us how to love in liberating ways that create more freedom and hope. We pray this day for ... God have mercy. In this singing we lift up this world to you with our love:

**All: (Sung)**

**Kyrie Eleison, Kyrie Eleison  
Kyrie Eleison, Kyrie Eleison**

### **Prayers for Our Community**

Loving Sovereign, we come to you asking for strength to work for the liberation of our communities, of our church. Show us how to love in unfettered ways that create celebrations of life lived fully. Show us how to love in ways that heal and comfort. We pray this day for... God have mercy. In this singing we lift up this community to you with our love:

**All: (Sung)**

**Kyrie Eleison, Kyrie Eleison  
Kyrie Eleison, Kyrie Eleison**

### **Prayers for Our Relationships**

Loving Parent, we come to you asking for strength to work for the liberation of our relationships. We profess to want liberation for all and yet too often we are part of the constriction of love. Show us how to love in ways that strengthen our bonds while also unbinding others from our own limited perspectives, our own fear. We pause in silence as we each lift up in our hearts the relationships that need your love... God have mercy. In this singing we lift up each other to you with our love

**All: (Sung)**

**Kyrie Eleison, Kyrie Eleison  
Kyrie Eleison, Kyrie Eleison**

## **Prayers for Our Selves**

Lover of Our Souls, we come to you asking for strength to work for our own liberation. We create tombs of our own as we cling to all that cannot give us life. Help us shed the burial cloths of past mistakes and regrets. Help us know the lure of your love for us, so that we may be your love in this world, in our communities, and in the lives with whom we intersect each day. God have mercy. In this singing we open ourselves to your love:

**All: (Sung)**  
**Kyrie Eleison, Kyrie Eleison**  
**Kyrie Eleison, Kyrie Eleison**

And so, as your people following in the ways of your Son, Jesus, who set the pattern of love as liberation from the death, we pray with confidence the prayer that he taught us:

### **The Prayer of Jesus**

**ALL: 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 the glory,  
forever. Amen.**

**NURTURING LOVE:  
NEWS ABOUT THE MINISTRY AND MISSION OF GOD'S  
CHURCH**

**OFFERING**

## OFFERING PRAYER

Thank you for the many ways in which you support God's work and God's people.

**Donate to God's Mission and Ministry at UNION UCC**

**OFFERING ENVELOPES.** If you can't attend worship, you can mail your envelopes to the church. The church address is on one side, just add a stamp.

**ELECTRONIC GIVING.** Choose to give a repetitive contribution on a regular basis (i.e weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly), or make single contributions whenever you desire in an amount of your choice. Electronic contributions are initiated from Union UCC's website (UnionUCC.org). Click on 'giving', then on 'Ways to Give' and follow the prompts. Feel free to contact John Harting (610-799-2508) or Don Penrod (610-398-2654) to answer your questions or demonstrate the process.

**VENMO** Union UCC now has Venmo! You can now make donations, pay for events, and support the church through this platform. Please be sure to include in the "What it's for" line what your Venmo is supporting. You can either search for @unionuccneffs

**MOBILE GIVING.** If you would like to give on the go, Vanco, the company that processes our e-giving transactions, has a mobile app that allows you to do so. Open your app search screen, search under "Vanco Mobile Faith \Engagement" and follow the prompts.

### **Easter Mission Offering**

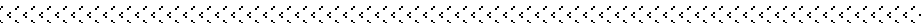
This year the **Easter Mission Offerings** will be divided between the **Habitat for Humanity and the Jubilee Breakfast Ministry.**

Please support these two mission organizations by using the Easter Mission Offering envelope in your envelope

packet, or make a note on your check or blank envelope for Easter Mission. Give online at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z51X/campaign/C-12H6T>

The mission of Habitat for Humanity of the Lehigh Valley is to provide hardworking families with simple, decent, affordable housing. Since 1989, Habitat has built 131 homes for families in the Lehigh Valley.

The Jubilee Breakfast Ministry at Zion's Reformed Church in Allentown serves about 65 breakfasts to those who need a meal each Thursday, Friday, and Saturday during the coldest months of the year, November through April.



**Musical Offering**

Cleansing Fountain E. Broughton  
Susan Cervin

Please stand in body or spirit.

**\*Offering Response**

**ALL: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God, all creatures here below.  
Praise God, above, the heavenly host.  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost!**

**Benediction**

*Leader:* Go forth into the world, looking for love in all the right places!

***People:* We will look for signs of The Liberator,  
shedding the shrouds of death to live and love freely!**

**\*Hymn #3 Come to the Waters Sing! Prayer and Praise**

♩=144

The musical score is written in 3/4 time with a tempo of 144 beats per minute. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody is on a treble clef staff. Chords are indicated above the staff. The lyrics are written below the staff.

Chords: E<sup>b</sup>, Fm<sup>7</sup>, Gm, Fm<sup>7</sup>, Gm, Fm, E<sup>b</sup>, B<sup>b</sup>, E<sup>b</sup>, Fm<sup>7</sup>, Gm, Fm<sup>7</sup>, Gm, Fm<sup>7</sup>, E<sup>b</sup>, A<sup>b</sup>, B<sup>b</sup>/D, E<sup>b</sup>, C<sup>7</sup>, Fm, B<sup>b</sup>7, E<sup>b</sup>maj<sup>7</sup>, C<sup>7</sup>, Fm, B<sup>b</sup>9, E<sup>b</sup>maj<sup>7</sup>, C<sup>7</sup>, Fm, B<sup>b</sup>7, E<sup>b</sup>, B<sup>b</sup>7, D.C.

Lyrics:

Come, Je - sus is call - ing to you. "Reach out, take my  
 hand. You'll not fall. Come, come, I am wait - ing for  
 you. O'er the wa - ters of life, hear my call." Last time, Fine

1. "Reach out in faith, cross the wa - ters to me.  
 2. "Walk out in faith, take the risk if you can.

Your hand in mine, that's the way it should be.  
 I bring you peace, come a - long, take my hand.

Stretch out in faith, take my hand if you will.  
 Step out in faith, I will car - ry you on.

Wa - ters be calm! Wind be still."  
 You may be weak; I am strong."

**Postlude Music**

Concerto in A Minor Vivaldi/ Bach/ V.D. Thompson  
 Susan Cervin

# EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)		Attendance Last Week		
Last Week	\$6,266.00		In person	Online
Calendar Year 2023 (Feb)	\$67,335.00	8:00 am	<b>58</b>	
Calendar Year 2022 (Feb)	\$53,368.00	10:30 am	<b>146</b>	
Change from Last Year	26.2%	Education Hour		
Budget FY 2022 ( <i>July 2022-Feb. 23</i> )	\$286,790.00	<b>2022 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:</b>		
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date ( <i>July 2022-Feb 23</i> )	\$279,113.00	Last Week:	140lbs , \$150	
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	-2.7%	Total YTD:	1379lbs, \$300	
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>		Easter Mission	\$253.00	

## Presentations to the Glory of God

### In the memory of Walt Disney

*Be a sponsor for \$20, send to Union UCC through your offering envelope or online marked Spread the Good News or \$8 for Children's Bulletin.*

*Contact Marissa to sign up for a certain date or to sponsor in honor or memory of someone.*

CCLI LICENSE # 1523377 / Streaming # 20407732

One License #A714125 / Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from *ONE LICENSE*, License #A714125