

LOOKIN' FOR...

L₁ O₁ V₄ E₁

IN ALL THE WRONG PLACES

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April 2, 2023

6th Sunday of Lent

Palm Sunday

Look for the Unexpected

GUESTS, Welcome to our faith community here at Union UCC. To learn more about us please visit our website at www.unionucc.org or like us on Facebook at 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, 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 Claire Kern

Ushers: 8:00 Phil Wehr, Ron Pope

10:30 Aften Hamm, Scott Nagle, Tami Herzog Wassum, Suzanne Lorah, Pat Warmkessel, Don Penrod, Jennifer Haley, Suzanne Schneider

Greeters: Mark & Debbie Daluisio, Gene and Christina Thrash

Sound: Mike Baer

“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

The Palms J. Faure
Blake Hoppes

Welcome

Threshold Moment

Today’s Soloist: Abby Kern

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: The disciples must have been excited and terrified all at once. The entrance into Jerusalem for Passover week had turned into a big deal. How would Jesus be received — by the people and by the authorities? And an entrance can define perception! Surely they would make as big a splash of confidence as possible. And then Jesus asks for a donkey. “A...donkey?!” Once again, Jesus demonstrates a love for peace and a love for common people by creating an entrance that proclaimed the power of God’s “kin-dom of heaven,” not Herod’s kingdom of oppression. Looking for love? Keep your eyes out for it in unexpected places.

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.

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** #132 Pave the Way with Branches
(Sing! Prayer and Praise)

1. Jesus is coming.

Pave the way with branches.

**Jesus is coming. Hosannah
Jesus is coming.
Pave the way with branches.
Jesus is coming. Hosannah**

Chorus

**Hosannah. Jesus is coming.
Hosannah to the Prince of Peace.
Hosannah. Jesus is coming.
Hosannah to the Prince of Peace.**

**2. Hope for the downtrodden
Pave the way with branches.
Hope for the downtrodden. Hosannah.
Hope for the downtrodden
Pave the way with branches.
Hope for the downtrodden. Hosannah.**

Chorus

**3. Release for the captives
Pave the way with branches.
Release for the captives, Hosannah.
Release for the captives
Pave the way with branches.
Release for the captives, Hosannah.**

Chorus

**4. Jesus is coming.
Pave the way with branches.
Jesus is coming. Hosannah
Jesus is coming.
Pave the way with branches.
Jesus is coming. Hosannah**

Chorus

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.

Music Offering

8:00 Heritage Choir Sing Hosanna, Sing! Joel Rambo

10:30 High School Choir How Beautiful Twila Paris

Testimony of Love Suzanne Schneider

Scripture Reading

Matthew 21: 1-11

[A recap of the Palm Sunday scene]:

When [Jesus and the disciples] had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me.

If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, "Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

The Message Pastor Kris

Music Offering The Power of the Cross
Keith Getty & Stuart Townend, Arr. Lloyd Larson
Geoff Brace, voice and Blake Hoppes, piano

WE RESPOND

Prayers of the People

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

Solo first time.



Musical notation for the first solo time of the Kyrie Eleison response. The notation is in 3/4 time, G minor, and consists of two staves. The lyrics are: 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 eyes and hearts wide open as we look for love in unexpected places. How do we do this when there are so many places in the world struggling to live and survive? May we be your love in the world. 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 your love to be poured out into our community and church. 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 hope and renewal in our relationships. Show us how to love in ways that strengthen our bonds while also letting go when bonds are no longer healthy or safe. 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 your love to surprise and catch us in new ways. Once again, Jesus demonstrates a love for peace and a love for common people by creating an entrance that proclaimed the power of God's "kin-dom of heaven," not Herod's kingdom of oppression. Show us again and again how to look for love in the unexpected places and how to let your love and grace heal us in deep and important ways. Show us how to expect the unexpected when it comes to you. 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 showed up in Jerusalem with just one more surprise, 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.

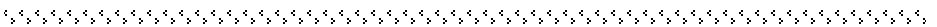
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

**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-751X/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

We Shall Behold Him Dottie Rambo
Blake Hoppes

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: We enter now the week we call the "holiest" of weeks in our liturgical year. We have all felt the longing of love, and the loss of love. We know that to love greatly is to risk deep pain. And yet, we were made for love. It is what gives life meaning and purpose. Let us begin our journey of reflection this week, knowing that Love Looks for Us.

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

*People: **We will look for signs of Unexpected Love, keeping watch for God's love where we least expect it.***

***Hymn** Here I Am, Lord

**I, the Lord of sea and sky
I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save**

[Chorus]

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night
I will go, Lord, if you lead me**

I will hold your people in my heart
I, who made the stars of night
I will make their darkness bright
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

[Chorus]

I, the Lord of snow and rain
I have borne my people's pain
I have wept for love of them
They turn away

[Chorus]

I will break their hearts of stone
Give them hearts for love alone
I will speak my words to them
Whom shall I send?

[Chorus]

Postlude Music

Beneath the Cross of Jesus Tune: St. Christopher,
Frederick C. Maker
Blake Hoppes

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)		Attendance Last Week		
Last Week	\$3,562.00		In person	Online
Calendar Year 2023 (Jan-Feb)	\$67,335.00	8:00 am	38	
Calendar Year 2022 (Jan-Feb)	\$53,368.00	10:30 am	109	
Change from Last Year	26.2%	Education Hour	8	
Budget FY 2022 (<i>July 2022-Feb. 23</i>)	\$286,790.00	2022 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:		
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (<i>July 2022-Feb 23</i>)	\$279,113.00	Last Week:	51lbs	
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	-2.7%	Total YTD:	1830lbs, \$150	
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>		Easter Mission	\$775.00	

Presentations to the Glory of God

In memory of Ruth Rothrock by daughters Lucille Kuhns, Leoma Kern, Lana Reitz, and families.

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.

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