



**April 23, 2023**  
**Tombs and Cocoons: Trusting the Dark**  
**Jazz Ensemble, 10:30 Baptism**

***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, pastoral care, fellowship, 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 on***

Lay Readers: 8:00 Maria Beltz, 10:30 Lucille Kuhns  
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: Ruth Ensley, Geoff and Sara Jane Brace  
Sound: Dawn Dengler

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

## **Prelude**

He Lives

Blake Hoppes

**Butterflies! Feel free to take a butterfly from the poles in the Sanctuary or see the baskets the doors with more butterflies and tattoos. Emerge!**

## **Preparing for New Life**

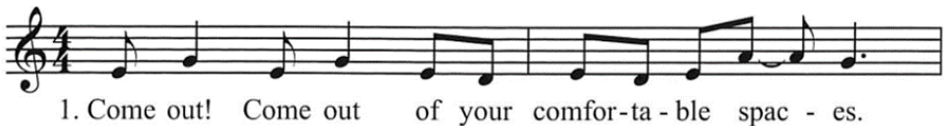
*Leader:* Friends, today we embark on a journey in a new worship series titled “Emerge.” The butterfly and its process of metamorphosis has a long history, even before it came to be a Christian symbol for death and resurrection. During this season, we will consider what it means to be a people who believe that transformation is possible — that we can move beyond the leaves we find ourselves on and turn into beautiful beings that can fly to new heights and see and experience the world in the sweetest of ways, tasting and perpetuating the nectar of goodness.

## **Gathering Song of Invitation**

*“Come Out!”*

**First time: Choir**

**Second Time: All**



## **Questions for Metamorphosis**

*Leader:* In the dark of the womb we wondered...

**People: ...what could be better than this warm and safe place?**

Once we were birthed into this life, at times we wondered...

**...could there be more than meets the eye?**

In the dark of the tomb-times of our existence we wonder...

**... is there life beyond these constraints?**

When we hear the story of Jesus we wonder...

**... is new life possible for me?**

Then the love of the Divine reminds us,

**“You too are my child.**

**You can emerge to renewed life.**

**Again and again.”**

**Amen.**

**Please stand in body or spirit.**

## **Passing the Peace**

*Leader:* I invite you to stand and pass the peace of Christ to one another by waving, smiling, and introducing yourself to each other.

Remember to send peace to those worshiping remotely.

**\*Opening Hymn: Black Hymnal # 423  
Great is Your Faithfulness**

**1. Great is your faithfulness, O God Creator,  
with you no shadow of turning we see.  
You do not change, your compassions they fail not:  
all of your goodness forever will be.**

**Great is your faithfulness! Great is your faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed your hand has provided,  
Great is your faithfulness, God, unto me!**

2. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
to your great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Great is your faithfulness! Great is your faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed your hand has provided,  
Great is your faithfulness, God, unto me!

3. Pardon for sin and a peace so enduring,  
your own dear presence to cheer and to guide.  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine with ten thousand beside.

Great is your faithfulness! Great is your faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed your hand has provided,  
Great is your faithfulness, God, unto me!

Please be seated.

## 10:30 Worship

**TODAY: Pastors invite children forward 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

The image shows a single line of musical notation on a five-line staff. The key signature has one flat (Bb). The notation starts with a treble clef and a common time signature (C). Above the staff, the chords Asus, A, Dm, Bb, and C are indicated. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. Below the staff, the lyrics are written: "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.

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

**Children's Church – during 10:30am 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.

### 10:30 SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

**Lilly Mae Selig, child of Tara (Dwyer) and Justin Selig  
Sponsors: Colleen Dwyer and Ryden Philbin**

### CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

**All: We promise our love, support, and care.**

Celtic Alleluia O'Carroll and Walker #613 With One Voice

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## Music Offering Jazz Ensemble

Jesus, What a Wonder You Are Dave Bolton

### Scripture Reading

The caterpillar's instinct about cocooning — entering the nurturing dark of gestation — is paralleled in the story of Jesus' life nurtured in the womb of Mary, the dark of the burial tomb from which he emerged, and our own willingness for transformation. "Emerging" is inherent in the Christian story and in our story as followers of Jesus. But it also means trusting the Divine when we aren't sure what's "next" for us. Will we allow ourselves to trust in the dark where transformation begins? Today we hear excerpts from the story of Jesus in which he was transformed in the darkness of womb and tomb.

**From Luke 1: 26-38:** *In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible*

with God.” Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

**From John 19: 38 - John 20:1:** After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission, so he came and removed his body. Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there. Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb.

**The Message    Carrie Beleno, Pastor of Visitation**

**\*Hymn Gold Hymnal #67 Blessed Assurance**

**1. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
O what a foretaste of Glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.**

**This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long;  
This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long.**

**2. Prefect submission, perfect delight,  
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
Angels descending bring from above**

Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long;  
This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long.

3. Perfect submission, all is at rest,  
I in my Savior am Happy and blest;  
Watching and waiting, looking above,  
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long;  
This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long.

### Entering into Prayer

*"Open Me"*

All sung, repeated and echoed after the leader:

Form me...  
hold me...  
open me...  
unfold me...  
unfurl me...  
untether me...  
uncurl me...  
uncrease me...  
unwrap me...

### Prayers of the People

#### Praying with Jesus

ALL: Cocoon of Creation, in whom is heaven,  
may your name be lifted in the chambers of our hearts.  
May the joy of transformation come,



**may your plans for us be unfurled here on earth  
as it is in the flight of heaven's glory.**

**For the strength we need, feed us.**

**For the forgiveness we desire, and need to give, invite us.**

**Save us from the temptation  
of all that would keep us from you,  
and deliver us from those things that seek to harm.**

**Unwrap your perfect kinship  
of love, power, and glory forever.**

**Amen.**

Holy One, we come before you trying to accept more fully the beauty of the darkness as a place where birth and resurrection begin. Allow us to trust your timing for our lives — the timing for our full opening. Help us to experience times of cocooning as places where you are remaking us into that which you created us to be. And assure us that we are not alone. We are cradled in your presence. Help us to offer this reassurance to others.

We pray this day for....

**Praying with Jesus (again...still)**

**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.**

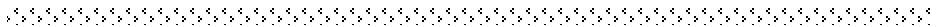
**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**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.**

## **NEWS ABOUT THE MINISTRY AND MISSION OF GOD'S CHURCH OFFERING**



**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.

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### **Musical Offering**

We Are Marching in the Light of God  
South African Traditional  
Blake Hoppes

Please stand in body or spirit.

**\* Offering Response**

**Praise God, from Whom All Blessing Flow**

The musical score is written on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of five lines of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures high and low. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia! Praise God, in Je-sus ful-ly known: Cre-a-tor, Word, and Spir-it one. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!"

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise  
4  
God, all crea - tures high and low. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -  
7  
lu - ia! Praise God, in Je - sus ful - ly known: Cre -  
10  
a - tor, Word, and Spir - it one. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -  
13  
lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

**\*Benediction**

Leader: Now go into your lives,  
willing to spend just a bit more time  
in the holy darkness,  
allowing God's possibilities to grow and change you.

And may the assurance of the God who created you,  
the Christ who is raising you,  
and the Spirit that will unleash you,  
be with you now and always.

Blessed be.

Amen.

**\*Hymn Gold Hymnal # 363 To God be the Glory**

**1. To God be the glory great things He hath done!  
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,  
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,  
And opened the life gate that all may go in.**

**Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
Let the earth hear His voice!  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
Let the people rejoice!  
O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son,  
And give Him the glory great things He hath done!**

**2. O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,  
To every believer the promise of God;  
The vilest of fender who truly believes,  
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.**

**Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
Let the earth hear His voice!  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
Let the people rejoice!  
O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son,  
And give Him the glory great things He hath done!**

**3. Great things He hath taught us,  
great things He hath done,  
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;  
But purer, and higher, and greater will be  
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.**

**Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
Let the earth hear His voice!  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
Let the people rejoice!**

**O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son,  
And give Him the glory great things He hath done!**

**Postlude Music**

Blue Monk     Jazz Ensemble

Blake Hoppes

Jazz Ensemble: Blake Hoppes-piano, Malcolm Mackenzie – Bass, Mike Baer-guitar, Mitchell Roth – Trumpet, Matt Gerry – Trumpet, Andy Hill - Trumpet

# EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)		Attendance Last Week		
Last Week	\$4,644.00		In person	Online
Calendar Year 2023 (Jan-Mar.)	\$91,680.00	8:00 am	<b>30</b>	
Calendar Year 2022 (Jan-Mar.)	\$86,093.00	10:30 am	<b>63</b>	
Change from Last Year	<b>+6.5</b>	Education Hour	<b>6</b>	
Budget FY 2022 ( <i>July 2022-Mar. 23</i> )	\$321,090.00	<b>2022 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:</b>		
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date ( <i>July 2022-Mar 23</i> )	\$303,523.00	Last Week:	350Lbs, \$	
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	<b>-5.5%</b>	Total YTD:	2180lbs, \$275	
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>		Easter Mission	\$1,707.00	

## Presentations to the Glory of God

*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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