



April 30, 2023
Coming Out: Leaving Comfortable Places

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, 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 are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Lay Readers: 8:00 Ron Pope, 10:30 Vicki Mayk

Ushers: 8:00

10:30

Greeters: Al Stubbmann, Andy & Jan Dyszel

Sound: Doug Albert

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

Prelude

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross
Tune: Near the Cross William H. Doane
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: "And the day came when the risk to remain tight in a bud was more painful than the risk it took to blossom." This quote by writer Anaïs Nin speaks profoundly to our current theme in worship, "Emerge." A caterpillar forms a chrysalis and stays inside for a time while the magical process of metamorphosis occurs. And a day comes when that protective shell is too constricting — the butterfly within must break free! Today we gather to encourage one another out of our comfortable places so that we may truly bloom.

Gathering Song of Invitation

"Come Out!"

First time: Choir

Soloist: 8:00 Carol Pope 10:30 Geoff Brace

Second Time: All



1. Come out! Come out of your com-for-ta-ble spac - es.



Come, meet Je - sus in the dif - fi - cult plac - es.

Questions for Metamorphosis

Leader: Safe in our cozy cocoons we wondered...

People: ...does anything really need to change?

While the world rushed on around us, we wondered...

...what if I'm just not ready for whatever comes next?

When we fold our true selves down in order to fit inside the old container, we wonder...

...am I truly honoring myself by staying in this shape?

When our worldviews are painfully challenged by new information, we wonder...

...could this discomfort indicate an opportunity for growth?

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.**

**Refrain: 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.**

Refrain

**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.**

Refrain

Please be seated.

Music Offering

8:00 am Heritage Choir:

Speak, O Lord Keith Getty & Stuart Townend

Arranged by Lloyd Larson

Carol Pope

10:30am Kids Choir:

Walk In Love Steven Courtney

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

Asus A $\frac{3}{4}$ 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

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

Last time, Fine 1. 2.3.

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.

Scripture Reading

As ever-emerging spiritual creatures, we cannot contain our selves — the selves God has created us to be. Coming out as people and as a church from what we have known into a new identity is filled with anxiety and unknowing. Emerging will take effort and surrendering to “the assurance of things hoped for” even though we cannot yet see what the future holds.

From Hebrews 11: 1-3: *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.*

The Message Pastor Kayli Freeman

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: Liberating God, 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 turn to you for guidance to sense the edges of our comfort zones and listen for your call to stretch beyond them. Help us to embrace difficult times and moments of uncertainty with peaceful hearts. Give us courage to shift in new directions and to break free from the patterns and habitual grooves that keep us from moving forward into new life. We find safety in you and hope for a brilliant, colorful future. Help us extend this courage 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

Standing on the Promises R. Kelso Carter
Blake Hoppes

Please stand in body or spirit.

*** Offering Response**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessing Flow

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,
 ready to break free from stasis
 into the vibrant, fluttering possibilities
 that await beyond this comfortable place.

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 #448 Take My Life, God Let It Be (New Century Hymnal, black)**

**Take my life, God, let it be consecrated faithfully
 Take my moments and my days, let them flow in
 ceaseless praise**

**Take my spirit, let it move at the impulse of your love
 Take my intellect and use all its powers as you choose.**

**Take my will; your will be done!
Make your will and mine be one
Take my heart, and by your grace make of it your
dwelling place**

**Take my love and help it grow; let my loving overflow
Take me now, and help me be part of Christ's
community**

Postlude Music

Sweet By and By Joseph P. Webster
Blake Hoppes

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)	
Last Week	\$8,501.00
Calendar Year 2023 (Jan-Mar.)	\$91,680.00
Calendar Year 2022 (Jan-Mar.)	\$86,093.00
Change from Last Year	+6.5
Budget FY 2022 (<i>July 2022-Mar. 23</i>)	\$321,090.00
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (<i>July 2022-Mar 23</i>)	\$303,523.00
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	-5.5%
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>	

Attendance Last Week	
8:00 am	38
10:30 am	115
Education Hour	5

2022 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Last Week:	Lbs, \$
Total YTD:	2180lbs, \$275
Easter Mission	\$2,106.00

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.

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