

LOOKIN' FOR...

L₁ O₁ V₄ E₁

IN ALL THE WRONG PLACES

worshipdesignstudio.com/love

**April 9, 2023
Easter Sunday
Love Wins**

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 Michael Roth, 10:30 Don Penrod

Ushers: 8:00 Kerry Snyder, Tom Anderson

10:30 Deidre Bilger, Carol James, Randy Bilger, Ruth Ruch, Janice Metzger, Julie Johnson, Todd McCoy, Laura Kohler

Greeters: Jim & Leanna Lane, Nancy Jones, Eric Minnich

Sound: 8:00 Dawn Dengler, 10:30 Karl Klinger

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

Assistant Organist: Jacob Roth

Instrumental Ensemble:

8am: Justin Bower and Mike Baer

**10:30: Garet Hill, Andy Hill, Mike Baer, Justin Bower,
Cameron Kuntz, Matt Gerry, and Lucas Maxwell**

Prelude

Crown Him with Many Crowns
Instrumental Ensemble

Welcome

We will be sharing Holy Communion today.

Everyone is welcome to this meal of love and grace.
If you are at home, we invite you to find something to
eat and drink that represents communion for you.

Here, you will be served in your seats.

Wait to eat and drink until the Pastor invites you to do so.

A non-gluten option with juice is available in a
prepackaged container on the bread tray. Both red
wine and white grape juice are on the tray of cups.

Please choose either.

Threshold Moment

Leader: John 20: 1-11

Reader: 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. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set

out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in.

Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb.

Today's Soloist: Jacob Roth

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: During the season of Lent leading up to this moment, we have been asking ourselves if we are looking for love in all the wrong places, if we are giving our attention to the things that do not really sustain our lives and add to love in this world. This day is the culminating message from the Gospel. In the end (or is it the beginning), we find out that love always wins! All things of this world pale in comparison to what resurrection looks like in our lives. New-found meaning, purpose, attention, wholeheartedness, wellbeing, peace:

these are the things that matter—the things the Teacher shows us. And no matter how many “wrong places” we’ve looked for love, the graves give way to the light of a new day as we learn to love as Christ loves us.

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.

Opening Prayer

Holy and Merciful One,
in this season of discernment we have come
bringing our deepest longings,
and our failed attempts at satisfying them.
We have often looked for love,
for acceptance and security,
in ways that do not give life, that do not love us back.

But as we come the Easter morning,
weeping like Mary,
you appear to us and you say
“Why are you weeping?
For I am here, Love is here, Life is here.
Arise, as I am arisen!”

**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!**

Alleluia! Amen!

Peace

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

People: **And also with you!**

Leader: I invite you to pass the love and peace of Christ to one another by greeting and welcoming each other.

Remember to send some of that love and peace to those worshiping remotely.

Please stand in body or spirit.

Instrument Ensemble

***Hymn** Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

#233 New Century Hymnal (Black Hymnal)

**1. Christ the Lord is ris'n today, Alleluia!
Mortal tongues and angels say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, glad heav'ns, and earth, reply, Alleluia!**

**2. Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids Christ rise, Alleluia!
God has opened paradise, Alleluia!**

**3. Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Foll'wing our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!**

Please be seated.

Music Offering 10:30 Kid's Choir

Christ is Risen from the Dead God's Kids Worship

10:30 Testimony of Love Randy and Dede Bilger

WE PROCLAIM

First Reading

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 (The Message, adapted)

Reader: Thank God because God is good,
because God's love never quits.

Tell the world, people,
"God's love never quits."

People: **God's love never quits!**

Reader: I was right on the cliff-edge, ready to fall,
when God grabbed and held me.

God's my strength, God is also my song,
and now God is my salvation.

Tell the world, people,
"God's love never quits."

People: **God's love never quits!**

Reader: Do you hear the shouts, hear the triumph songs
in the camp of the saved?

"The hand of God has turned the tide!

The hand of God is raised in victory!

The hand of God has turned the tide!"

Tell the world, people,
"God's love never quits."

People: **God's love never quits!**

Reader: We didn't die. We *lived!*

And now we are telling the world what God did.
God tested me, pushed me hard,
but didn't hand me over to Death.
Swing wide the city gates—the *righteous* gates!
I'll walk right through and thank God!
Tell the world, people,
“God's love never quits.”

People: **God's love never quits!**

Reader: Thank you for responding to us;
you've truly become our salvation!
The stone the masons discarded as flawed
is now the capstone!
This is God's work.
We rub our eyes—we can hardly believe it!
This is the very day God acted—
let's celebrate and be festive!
Salvation now, God. Salvation now!
Oh yes, God—a free and full life!
Tell the world, people,
“God's love never quits.”

People: **God's love never quits!**

Hymn In the Bulb There Is a Flower
#433 New Century Hymnal (Black Hymnal)

**1. In the bulb there is a flower,
in the seed, an apple tree,
in cocoons, a hidden promise:
butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter**

**there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.**

**2. There's a song in every silence,
seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness,
bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future;
what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.**

**3. In our end is our beginning,
in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing,
in our life, eternity,
in our death, a resurrection,
at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.**

Second Reading

John 20: 11-18

Reader: We take up where we left off, with Mary standing weeping outside the tomb...

As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had

said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher).

Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

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 wondering how we might be sure that love wins. There are so many pockets of poverty, war, disaster, and oppression in the world. We sometimes feel hopeless and powerless. 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 Presence, 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 those on our minds and hearts and those on our prayer list. 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 you to show us again that your love is relentless and never quits on us. Even when we have looked for meaning and purpose in places that were not good for us, for others, or for your hopes and dreams, you still stand with us and beside us. May the good news of this Easter story bring us new life, new spirit, and new faith. Let your love and grace heal us in deep and important ways. Let your love win in our hearts and lives.

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

And so, as your people following in the ways of your Son, Jesus, 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.

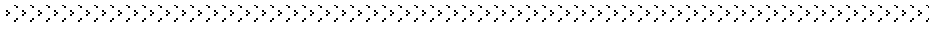
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

**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.

**Praise God, above, the heavenly host.
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost!**

Please be seated.

HOLY COMMUNION

Everyone is welcome to this meal of love and grace.
If you are at home, we invite you to find something to eat
and drink that represents communion for you.

Here, you will be served in your seats.

Wait to eat and drink until the Pastor invites you to do so.

A non-gluten option with juice is available in a
prepackaged container on the bread tray. Both red wine
and white grape juice are on the tray of cups. Please
choose either.

Leader: If love seems to allude,
come searching at this table.

For here you will find a host that does not disappoint!
The feast is laid for all who come “looking for love”
and vow to spread that love around with others.

All too often, we have looked for love in all the wrong
places. In this silence, we open ourselves to a change in
our paths, to seeing with new eyes, to setting aside empty
promises, to following in new ways.

Silence

Leader: May Love be with you!

People: **And also with you!**

Leader: Lift up your hearts!

People: **We lift them up to the Lord!**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise!**

Leader: What love you have given us
in your Son Jesus Christ!

Your Spirit poured out through him,
as he brought good news, proclaimed freedom,
healed, and fed.

His life of love shows us the way.
His life of love delivers us from false hopes.
His life, death, and resurrection offered
ultimate and enduring love.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us,
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,
gave it to his disciples, and said:

“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

“Drink from this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.”

And so, in remembrance of this love in Jesus Christ,
we offer our love completely
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

All: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again!

Leader: God of love,
pour out your love and spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the love of Christ,
so that we may be for the world the love of Christ!

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other,
and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory
and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ
with the Holy Spirit in your holy church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God,
now and forever.

All: Amen.

BREAKING BREAD AND POURING WINE

L: The bread which we break is the communion of the body of Christ.

L: The cup of blessing which we bless is the communion of the blood of Christ.

L: The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

SHARING THE MEAL

HYMN #330 Let Us Break Bread Together (Black Hymnal, New Century Hymnal)

1. Let us break bread together on our knees

**Let us break bread together on our knees
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
My God have mercy on me**

**2. Let us drink wine together on our knees
Let us drink wine together on our knees
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
My God have mercy on me**

**3. Let us praise God together on our knees
Let us praise God together on our knees
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
My God have mercy on me.**

THE BREAD

L: Take and eat, the body of Christ, broken for you.

MUSIC OFFERING

**8 and 10:30 Combined Choir: Sing an Easter Allelujah
Mitchell Roth, trumpet and Jacob Roth, piano**

THE CUP

L: Take and drink, this is the cup of the new covenant,
poured out for you.

L: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, keep
and preserve you unto eternal life.

COLLECTING OF CUPS

**HYMN #677 They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love
Hymns for the Faith of Faith (Gold Hymnal)**

**1. We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord**

And we pray that our unity will one day be restored
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love

2. We will walk with each other we will walk hand in hand
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love

3. We will work with each other, we will work side by side
We will work with each other, we will work side by side
And we'll guard each one's dignity
and save each one's pride
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love

Benediction

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

People: **We will look for signs of Love,
we will be acts of Love,
we will show the world that Love Always Wins!**

***Hymn** Jesus Christ Is Risen Today
240 New Century Hymnal (Black Hymnal)

**1. Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once, upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss, Alleluia!**

**2. To the tomb the women bring, Alleluia!
Spices rich, and offering, Alleluia!
Asking where might Jesus be, Alleluia!**

Savior come to set us free, Alleluia!

3. Christ appears in full array, Alleluia!

Sing with joy this Paschal day, Alleluia!

Christ now from the dead is raised, Alleluia!

Holy Trinity be praised, Alleluia!

Postlude Music

He Lives Alfred Henry Ackley

Blake Hoppes

Easter Sunday

6:30am Sunrise Worship in the Cemetery

8am and 10:30am Worship in the Sanctuary

Mimosas and the Easter Bunny!

Join us after 8am and 10:30am worship on the front lawn and steps of the church for a celebratory mimosa, orange juice, and snack. The Easter Bunny will be joining us.

Sundays for Children and Families

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.

Worship Theme ©www.worshipdesignstudio.com

Thank you to our team of angels who help to decorate the church for worship. Claire Kern, Deb Topp, Dan Topp, Kathy Bonsell, and Pastor Kris

Thank you to all who helped to make our Lent, Holy Week, and Easter so meaningful. Thank you to those who served as choir members, musicians, ushers, and worship participants. Thank you to our staff, Consistory, and leaders for giving your time and talents so generously.

Thank you to our Flower Sponsors.

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)		Attendance Last Week		
Last Week	\$11,272.00		In person	Online
Calendar Year 2023 (Jan)	\$37,004.00	8:00 am	58	
Calendar Year 2022 (Jan)	\$29,651.00	10:30 am	172	
Change from Last Year	+24.8%	Education Hour	12	
Budget FY 2022 (July 2022-Jan. 23)	\$261,970.00	2022 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:		
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (July 2022-Jan 23)	\$248,782.00	Last Week:	lbs	
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	-5.0%	Total YTD:	1830lbs, \$225	
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>		Easter Mission	\$1616.78	

Presentations to the Glory of God

Easter Joy to you! Pastor Kris

*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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