



LOOKIN' FOR...

L₁ O₁ V₄ E₁

IN ALL THE WRONG PLACES

worshipdesignstudio.com/love

April 9, 2023
Easter Sunrise Service

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 on life's journey, you are welcome here.

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

Prelude

In The Garden

Mitchell Roth, Trumpet

Welcome

We will be sharing Holy Communion today.

Everyone is welcome to this meal of love and grace. You will be served by the worship leaders standing in their place. Please go to them.

If you are at home, we invite you to find something to eat and drink that represents communion for you.

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.

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.

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

***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!**

WE PROCLAIM

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 Kayli**

WE RESPOND

Prayers of the People

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.**

HOLY COMMUNION

***Everyone is welcome to this meal of love and grace. You will
be served by the worship leaders standing in their place.***

Please go to them.

***If you are at home, we invite you to find something to eat
and drink that represents communion for you.***

***A non-gluten option with juice is available in a prepack-
aged 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

Leader: Friends, we welcome everyone to this meal. Please receive your elements from the ushers. You are invited to take and eat, to take and drink, and to be filled by the precious body and blood of the risen Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

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

Grown Him With Many Crowns
Mitchell Roth, Trumpet

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.

Offering – we will not be collecting your offerings during the service. Please plan to your offerings and/or Easter Mission offerings supporting Habitat for Humanity of the Lehigh Valley and the Jubilee Breakfast Ministry as you arrive or as you leave worship in the offering plates on white stands. Thank you for all the ways you continue to support the mission and ministry of Union UCC.

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.

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-Feb)	\$67,335.00	8:00 am	58	
Calendar Year 2022 (Jan-Feb)	\$53,368.00	10:30 am	172	
Change from Last Year	26.2%	Education Hour	12	
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:	lbs , \$75.00	
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	-2.7%	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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