



May 21, 2023
Unfold: Claiming New Possibilities
Baptism (10:30am)

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.

Lay Readers: 8:00 Doug Albert, 10:30 Tami Wassum

Ushers: 8:00 Debbie Romig, Connie Gioielli, Dixie Gross

10:30 Donna Christman, Brian Horwith, Deb Wenner, Maryann Puia, Gloria Toner, Carol Stout, Marianne Kitzmiller

Sound: Pat Sorg

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

Prelude

Sing Your Blues Away Wallace B. Varner Arr. Stan Whitmire
Blake Hoppes

Welcome

Preparing for New Life

Leader: We all come into this world as seeds of potential. Just as mighty oak trees grow from tiny acorns and beautiful butterflies grow from humble caterpillars, each one of us is gifted with unique potential for growth and transformation. Today as we continue our journey through the “Emerge” series, we dare to imagine unfolding our wings and claiming our space in this beloved community.

Gathering Song of Invitation

“Come Out!”

First time: Choir

Second Time: All



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



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

Questions for Metamorphosis

Leader: When we arrived in this world, we wondered...

People: ...from where will I get my sustenance and care?

When we were children, we wondered...

...who will I become on this adventure called life?

Change can make us feel awkward and fragile, and we wonder...

...how can I move through this change with grace?

When we give ourselves permission to dream big dreams, we wonder...

...how can I realize that vision?

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: : #403 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less
(New Century Hymnal, black)**

1. My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' love and righteousness; I dare not trust this earthly frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand.

2. When shadows veil my Savior's face, I rest up on unchanging grace; In every high and stormy gale, my anchor hold within the veil.

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand.

3. Christ's oath and covenant and blood support me in the rising flood; When all around my soul gives way, Christ then is all my hope and stay.

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand.

4. When Christ shall come with trumpet sound, oh, may I then in Love be found, Dressed in God's righteousness alone faultless to stand before the throne.

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand.

Please be seated.

Music Offering

Heritage Choir (8:00am) Horizon Choir (10:30am)

Christ Be With Me

Saint Patrick, Incorporating Slane, Music by Michael S. Bryson

10:30 Mornings with Ms. Tiffany

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

Musical notation for the song "Go, Make a Diff'rence". The notation is on a single staff with a treble clef. It shows a sequence of notes: a whole rest, a whole note G, a whole note A, a double bar line with repeat dots, a quarter note G, a quarter note A, a quarter note B, a quarter note C, a quarter note G, a quarter note A, a quarter note B, a quarter note C. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: Asus, A, Dm, Bb, C. The lyrics "Go make a diff - 'rence. We can make a diff-" are written below the staff.

Dm F Asus A
 — 'rence. Go make a diff - 'rence in the world.

Dm B^b C Dm
 Go make a diff - 'rence. We can make a diff - 'rence.

B^bmaj⁷ Asus A Dm Am Am
 Last time, Fine 1. 2.3.
 Go make a diff - 'rence in the world.

Education Hour for All Ages and Children's Church will return in September.

10:30 SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Wyatt Gabriel Ruch child of Jessica and Barrett Ruch

Lyonel Marcus Allen Anderson Jr. child of Maryssa and Lyonel Anderson

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.

Scripture Reading

Once out of the cocoon, the new butterfly has much to do to prepare for flight. Wings are not yet ready. Small and

undernourished, they long for expansion — to move beyond this awkward in-between-ness. As we consider our own metamorphosis, we remember how Jesus renamed “Simon” as “Peter” — a description of “the rock” upon which the church would be built. Are we willing to accept that God’s possibilities may come in ways we never imagined, perhaps expanding our notion of who we are in this world?

From Matthew 16: 13-20: *Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.*

The Message

“Who Do You Say that I Am?” Rev. Allan Kramer-Moyer

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: Nourishing 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 are hungry for meaningful lives and fulfilling relationships. We thirst for your justice and mercy. Stretch our hearts and minds as we expand into the fullness of your love, reaching out to build new connections, to generate fresh ideas, and to do more acts of goodness in the world. We are anchored in your love and held by your grace. Help us lift high the ones in our community who are in need of loving care and support.

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



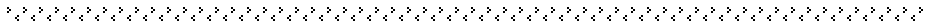
Donate to God's Mission and Ministry at UNION UCC
OFFERING ENVELOPES. If you can't attend worship, you can mail your envelopes to the church. The church address is on one side, just add a stamp.

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.



Musical Offering

Mansion Over the Hilltop Ira F. Stanphill

Blake Hoppes

Please stand in body or spirit.

* Offering Response

Praise God, from Whom All Blessing Flow

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. It consists of five staves 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-ator, 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!"

4
lu - ia! Praise God, in Je - sus ful - ly known: Cre -

7
a - tor, Word, and Spir - it one. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

10
lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

*Benediction

Leader: Now go into your lives,
beginning to spread your wings wide

into this present day
that is so ripe with possibilities.

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 #400 Christ is Made the Sure Foundation (New Century Hymnal, black)**

**1. Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and cornerstone,
chosen of our God and precious,
binding all the Church in one;
Holy Zion's help forever, and our confidence alone.**

**2. To this temple, where we call you,
come, O God of Hosts, today!
With your constant, loving kindness
hear your people as they pray.
Give your fullest benediction:
grace to follow Christ the Way.**

**3. Here renew your servants' vision,
that by faith they may attain peace and hope,
renewed compassion, strength to comfort those in pain,
Tears and grief transformed to gladness in your everlasting
reign.**

Postlude Music

His Eye is on the Sparrow Civilla Martin, Charles Gabriel
Blake Hoppes

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)		Attendance Last Week		
Last Week			In person	Online
Calendar Year 2023 (Jan-April)	\$138,705.00	8:00 am	40	
Calendar Year 2022 (Jan-April)	\$127,458.00	10:30 am	82	
Change from Last Year	8.8%	Education Hour		
Budget FY 2022 (<i>July 2022-April. 23</i>)	\$365,541.00	2022 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:		
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (<i>July 2022- 23</i>)	\$350,548.00	Last Week:	\$	
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	-1.7%	Total YTD:	2255lbs, \$485	
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>		Phoebe Home	\$785.00	

Presentations to the Glory of God

In celebration in the marriage of Kayla Turney and J.D. Nuschke on May 13, 2023

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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