



# EMERGE

A METAMORPHOSIS MOMENT

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**May 28, 2023**

## **Let Go: Leaving Behind What We Don't Need Memorial Sunday**

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

Lay Readers: 8:00 Carol Pope, 10:30 Donna Christman

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

Sound: Dawn Degler

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

Prelude

"Freedom Hymn" with "A Mighty Fortress"

Dino Katsonakis, Bill George, Martin Luther

Blake Hoppes

**Welcome**

### **Preparing for New Life**

*Leader:* Just as butterflies leave behind their chrysalises, baby birds break out of their shells, and snakes shed their skin, we too discard old parts of ourselves in order to keep growing. We go through changes in work, in family structures, in friendships, in our own beliefs and values, all throughout our lives. When we give ourselves permission to say 'yes' to new experiences and ways of being, that often means letting go of old habits and patterns, a kind of decluttering the mind, body, and spirit. Today in worship, we will ponder what it means to release what is no longer necessary so that we might make room for positive changes.

### **Gathering Song of Invitation**

*"Come Out!"*

***First time: Choir***

***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: While our spiritual ancestors were living in Egypt, they wondered...

**People: ...how long must we endure this oppression?**

When they left Egypt and followed Moses in the desert, they wondered...

**...is this really any better than our old life in Egypt?**

When we feel the urge to make a change in our lives, we wonder...

**...how much longer can I go on like this?**

When we consider the cost of change, we wonder...

**...what is the cost if I stay the same?**

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: : #690 America the Beautiful—Hymns for the Family of God (Gold)**

O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain  
For purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!  
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,  
And crown thy good with brotherhood, from sea to shining  
sea

O beautiful for pilgrim feet, whose stern, impassioned stress

A throughfare for freedom beat across the wilderness

America! America! God mend thine every flaw,  
Confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law  
O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,  
Who more than self their country loved, and mercy more  
than life!

America! America! May God thy gold refine  
Til all success be nobleness and every gain divine  
O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years  
Thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears!

America! America! God shed his grace on thee  
And crown thy good with brotherhood, from sea to shining  
sea

**Please be seated.**

## Music Offering

**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 and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. Above the staff, the chords Asus, A, Dm, Bb, and C are indicated. A double bar line with repeat dots is placed after the A chord. 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<sup>b</sup> C Dm  
 Go make a diff - 'rence. We can make a diff - 'rence.

B<sup>b</sup>maj<sup>7</sup> 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.**

**Scripture Reading**

Stretching to the fullness of new potential, the butterfly begins to sense the calling to new heights. Expansion of wings, however, means something profound — it cannot ever go back into the cocoon. Not even if it wanted to. And so it is time to leave it behind. The Israelites that left Egypt were aching for freedom and yet when faced with the disorientation of all that was new and familiar, many began crying to go back. Letting go of the past requires deep trust in the God who has promised to be with us always.

**From Exodus 16:** *The whole congregation of the Israelites set out from Elim and came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt. The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the*

land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and ate our fill of bread, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

Then the Lord said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.” So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?” And Moses said, “When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him — what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord.”

Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites: ‘Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.’ ” And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses, “I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.’ ”

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp.

When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat. This

*is what the Lord has commanded: Gather as much of it as each of you needs, an omer per person according to the number of persons, all providing for those in their own tents."*

*The Israelites did so, some gathering more, some less. But when they measured it with an omer, those who gathered much had nothing over, and those who gathered little had no shortage; they gathered as much as each of them needed. And Moses said to them, "Let no one leave any of it over until morning." But they did not listen to Moses; some left part of it until morning, and it became wormy and rotten. And Moses was angry with them. Morning by morning they gathered it, as much as each needed, but when the sun grew hot, it melted.*

*On the sixth day they gathered twice as much food, two omers apiece. When all the leaders of the congregation came and told Moses, he said to them, "This is what the Lord has commanded: Tomorrow is a day of solemn rest, a holy Sabbath to the Lord; bake what you want to bake and boil what you want to boil, and all that is left over put aside to be kept until morning." So they put it aside until morning, just as Moses commanded them, and it did not rot, and there were no maggots in it. Moses said, "Eat it today, for today is a Sabbath to the Lord; today you will not find it in the field. Six days you shall gather it, but on the seventh day, which is a Sabbath, there will be none."*

*On the seventh day some of the people went out to gather, and they found none. The Lord said to Moses, "How long will you refuse to keep my commandments and instructions? See! The Lord has given you the Sabbath; therefore on the sixth day he gives you food for two days; each of you stay where you are; do not leave your place on the seventh day." So the people rested on the seventh day.*

## **The Message**

**Susan Glosan, member and seminary student**

## **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: Cleansing 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 come to you seeking the wisdom to discern what to hold onto and what to let go. When we know what is no longer serving us, we need courage and strength to make a change. Help us to release the thought patterns and behaviors that are keeping us from moving forward into healthier ways of being.



Comfort us in our moments of loss and doubt, because we know that letting go can be painful. May we offer this comfort and grace to all who are ready for transformation.

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.**

#### **A TRIBUTE TO THOSE WHO SERVED**

The congregation responded to the invitation to submit names of those who died during military service. We remember all who served, but on the Memorial Day, especially those who died in military service and whose names are listed here:

PVT Larry W. Bachman, U.S. Army

Ensign Vernon G. Kern, U.S. Navy

W-O David P. Kuhns, U.S. Army-Air Force

SP4 Larry R. Lalan, U.S. Army

Richard Wehr, U.S. Army

All unknown soldiers who gave their lives in service

**PRAYER FOR MEMORIAL DAY** By Maren C. Tirabassi

**ALL: God, we come with Taps in our hearts  
remembering those who have died for others,  
soldiers, sailors, air corps, in this country and others,**

remembering those who risk life for others,  
coast guard, firefighter, law enforcement,  
both near and far away,  
remembering those who go forth  
in emergency response, disaster relief,  
and aid to victims of war,  
remembering those who witness for justice  
in the face of opposition,  
and remembering our own losses –  
some, fresh wounds,  
some, long-familiar sadnesses.  
Day is come, not just one,  
but a year full of dawns  
in the east.  
While some rest, we are blest,  
given peace. Amen.

Leader: We remember that Memorial Day began when Confederate war widows decorated the far-from-home graves of Union soldiers.

**ALL: We remember – and pray for those who grieve on all sides of a conflict.**

Leader: We remember that Memorial Day also began at Charleston's Washington Race Course when newly freed slaves honored prisoners of war.

**ALL: We remember – and pray for people everywhere who are seeking freedom or living with the loss of freedom.**

Leader: We remember that May 30 was chosen for Memorial Day because it was one day that did not commemorate a particular battle.

**ALL: We remember — and pray for a time when every day is an anniversary of peace.**

Leader: We remember ANZAC Day, when Australians and New Zealanders memorialize not only those in combat, but nurses, stretcher bearers, conscientious

objectors, and those who bear home front burdens.

**ALL: We remember – and pray to be aware of the gifts of many in our common causes.**

Leader: We remember Christmas Eve truces and paper cranes, amnesties and poppies, folded flags and the desperate need of veterans for gratitude made real in support.

**ALL: We remember — and pray for a memorializing, not confined to a holiday but alive in the spirits of young and old, enlisted and civilian, brand new Americans and those with deep hometown-roots, people of every faith, no faith and people willing to leave their politics outside the door in order to embrace everyone. God, be with us as we remember. Amen.**

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

### **OFFERING**

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#### **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**

The Lord's Prayer Albert Hay Malotte  
Blake Hoppes

Please stand in body or spirit.

**\* Offering Response**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessing Flow

The musical notation is written on a single treble clef staff in G major (one sharp) and 3/8 time. It consists of three lines of music. The first line starts with a whole rest followed by a quarter note G, then quarter notes A, B, C, D, E, F, and a half note G. The second line starts with a quarter note G, then quarter notes A, B, C, D, E, F, and a half note G. The third line starts with a quarter note G, then quarter notes A, B, C, D, E, F, and a half note G. 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 -".

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,  
 leaving behind what no longer fits  
 and trusting in the promise  
 that yes, transformation really is possible!  
 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 #682 A Song of Peace—Hymns for the Family Of God (Gold)**

This is my song, O God of all the nations,  
 A song of peace for lands a far and mine;  
 This is my home, the country where my heart is;  
 Here are my hopes my dreams my holy shrine;  
 But other hearts in other lands are beating  
 With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine

My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,  
 And sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine;  
 But other lands have sunlight too and clover,  
 And skies are everywhere as blue as mine  
 O hear my song, Though God of all the nations

A song of peace for their land and for mine.

This is my prayer, O Lord of all earth's kingdoms,  
Thy kingdom come on earth Thy will be done;  
Let Christ be lifted up 'til all men serve him,  
And hearts united learn to live as one:  
O hear my prayer, Thou God of all the nations  
Myself I give thee let thy will be done.

This is my song, O God of all the nations,  
A song of peace for men in every place;  
And yet I pray for my beloved country  
The reassurance of continued grace:  
Lord help us find our oneness in the Savior  
In spite of differences of age and race.

### **Postlude Music**

A Mighty Fortress is Our God     Martin Luther  
Blake Hoppes

# EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)		Attendance Last Week	
Last Week			In person
Calendar Year 2023 (Jan-April)	\$138,705.00	8:00 am	<b>34</b>
Calendar Year 2022 (Jan-April)	\$127,458.00	10:30 am	<b>94</b>
Change from Last Year	8.8%	Education Hour	
Budget FY 2022 ( <i>July 2022-April. 23</i> )	\$365,541.00	<b>2022 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:</b>	
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 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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