



EMERGE

A METAMORPHOSIS MOMENT

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May 7, 2023
Open: Into the Light
Confirmation Day
Church Family Worship

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 Sue Steinmann, 10:30 Dan Topp

Ushers: 8:00 Phil Wehr, Ron Pope

10:30 Eric Minnich, Scott Nagle, Tami Wassum, Don Penrod, Jennifer Haley, Suzanne Schneider

Greeters:

Sound: Karl Klinger

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

Prelude

Just As I Am, Without One Plea

Tune: WOODWORTH

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: There are times in our lives when we must learn to see the world differently. Caterpillars have limited vision and are only able to sense changes in the intensity of light. When they become butterflies, they are gifted with a completely new eye structure that allows them to form images and take in a huge range of colors — even more than the human eye! Let us who have limited vision in this life be reassured by God's presence, even when we cannot know what lies ahead. Today, we open ourselves to the light of enduring hope.

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: On the long road of our faith journey, we wonder...

People: ...what lies ahead along the path?

Through all our in-between stages of transformation, we wonder...

...where am I going, and where am I growing?

As we search for direction in life, we wonder...

...how can I trust when everything is so uncertain?

Moving into new paradigms and perspectives, we wonder...

...what will be revealed when I open up to new possibilities?

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: : The Summons John L. Bell c. 1987 Iona Community**

1. Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?

Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?

Will you let my love be shown, Will you let my name be known

Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

2. Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?

Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?

Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?

Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

**3. Will you let the blinded see, if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
And admit to what I mean in you and you in me?**

**4. Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world
around
Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in
me?**

**5. Lord, your summons echoes true if you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps
show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.**

Please be seated.

Music Offering

Promised Land Natalie Sleeth, Arr. Mary McDonald

Heritage Choir (8:00am)

Horizon Choir (10:30am)

10:30 Worship

Today is Church Family Worship. Children are invited to remain with their families during worship. If needed, the nursery is available for use across the hall from the sanctuary. Worship is livestreamed for viewing.

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

The story of faith is not one of arrival but of journey. The new butterfly's struggle to push out of its confines produces a fissure that cannot be undone. There is no going back, the journey to a new existence has commenced. The post-resurrection story of Jesus opening the hearts of his fellow travelers along the road to Emmaus invites us to be companions of the one who will open us into the light of a new day.

From Luke 24: 28-49: *As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.*

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands

and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see, for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. Yet for all their joy they were still disbelieving and wondering, and he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence. Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you — that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

The Message **Pastor Kayli Freeman**

CONFIRMANDS ARE CALLED FORWARD TO AFFIRM THEIR FAITH

STATEMENT OF FAITH by The Confirmation Class of 2023

*I know that God is still amongst or watching over us and protecting us. I believe that he did have Jesus be born to teach the world of God. I know that Jesus taught those who would listen to the word of God. I know he would help those in need and heal the sick. -**Everett Lightner***

*I believe that the bible is a book that tells all of the stories from before Christ and when Christ was born and lived. I also think that it gives you examples of how to live your life, and that it brings peace. -**Claire Puia***

I believe that Church is a physical building. I believe that it's a building where we worship God, although we can

do that anywhere. It is important to say a prayer, maybe even if it's only once in a while. Prayers are important to me since they are ways to talk to God. – Miranda Brown

I feel fortunate to be a member of a church that has so many individuals who care for each person who walks in regardless of their who they are. Living my life as a Christian has given me hope in times of need and many people who will have my back at any step of life. – Elijah Gladish

THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION

Invitation

Questions

Prayer of the Candidates

O God, my God, known to me in Jesus Christ, I give myself to you as your own, to love and serve you faithfully, all the days of my life. Amen.

Prayer of the Congregation (UNISON)

Almighty God, who in baptism received these your servants into the church, forgave their sins, and promised them eternal life, increase in them the gifts of you Holy Spirit

Grant them love for others, joy in serving you, peace in disagreement, patience in suffering, kindness toward all people, goodness in evil times, faithfulness in temptation, gentleness in the face of opposition, self-control in all things.

Thereby strengthen them for their ministry in the world; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Act of Confirmation

Confirmands will be blessed and prayed over by a pastor, parents, and God Guides.

They will also receive a cross and a certificate from the teaching team.

Parents and God-Guides are invited to come forward when your Confirmand is at the railing

Prayer of Confirmation

Questions about Participation

Welcome (unison)

We promise you our continuing friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ

By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior. Amen.

Greeting of Christian Love

Consistory Officer -Eric Minnich (Consistory President)

Prayer

BENEDICTION

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: Illuminating 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 in prayer, asking for you to cast your light upon all that cries out for change in our lives and in our communities. Long ago on the road to Emmaus, Jesus opened the eyes of his traveling companions and gave them the gift of new sight. Shine your compassion into the cracks of our broken-open worlds, and help us be a beacon of peace and connection for 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

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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.

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Musical Offering

8:00 How Great Thou Art Carl Gustav Boberg

10:30 **High School Choir:** You Say Lauren Diagle, Jason Ingram, & Paul Mabury

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,
trusting the light of hope
even when the destination ahead
is still unknown.

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 Here I Am Lord** Text: Daniel Schutte Music: Daniel Schutte; arr. Michael Pope, SJ, Daniel L. Chutte and John Weissrock © 1981 Daniel L. Schutte and New Dawn Music

**I the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?**

CHORUS

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.**

**I the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?**

CHORUS

**I the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?**

CHORUS

Postlude Music

The Heart of Worship Matt Redman
Blake Hoppes

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)		Attendance Last Week		
Last Week	\$5,307.00		In person	Online
Calendar Year 2023 (Jan-Mar.)	\$91,680.00	8:00 am	25	
Calendar Year 2022 (Jan-Mar)	\$86,093.00	10:30 am	95	
Change from Last Year	+6.5	Education Hour	4	
Budget FY 2022 (<i>July 2022-Mar. 23</i>)	\$321,090.00	2022 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:		
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (<i>July 2022-Mar 23</i>)	\$303,523.00	Last Week:	75Lbs, \$50	
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	-5.5%	Total YTD:	2255lbs, \$325	
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>		Easter Mission	\$1,707.00	

Presentations to the Glory of God

Blessings on our Confirmands, Families, and Pastor Kayli! - 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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