

Come to the Table... of Joy



WORSHIP
DESIGN STUDIO
WDS

October 1, 2023
8:00 and 10:30 Worship
Holy Communion
The Table of Joy

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 Maria Beltz, 10:30 Donna Christman

Ushers: 8:00 Phil Wehr, Ron Pope

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

Greeters: Ron Snyder, Vicki Mayk

Sound: Karl Klinger

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

Prelude Music

Sweet Hour of Prayer William B. Bradbury

Blake Hoppes

Welcome

For Communion Today:

Everyone is welcome to this meal of love and grace. You will be served in your seats. Please wait to eat and drink until the Pastor invites you to do so.

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.

Setting the Table

Come to the Table of Grace #112 Sing! Prayer and Praise

Choir sings first time, then everyone the second time.

Leader: Today we conclude our worship series, "Come to the Table," on World Communion Sunday! This day is a global celebration of a sacred ritual that helps us remember Jesus' life and ministry and connects us with our Christian ancestors and siblings across time and space. There is great joy to be found at God's table: joy in the vibrant relationships that nurture and sustain this community, joy in the sharing of our gifts and resources, joy in the journey as we work towards a more just and equitable world.

ALL sing: Come to the Table

F C7 F F7/C
 Come to the ta - ble of joy.

B♭ C F C
 Come to the ta - ble of joy.

F B♭/F F7 B♭ B♭7
 This is God's ta - ble, it's not yours or mine.

F/C C7 F F
 Come to the ta - ble of joy.

Taking Our Place, Opening to Others

Leader: We hear God's calling to have joyful spirits as Christ's followers.

ALL: We lift our hearts to be filled with vim and vigor!

Leader: We know that sometimes it is difficult to be joyful in life.

ALL: We recognize that joy is a practice, not just a happy feeling.

Leader: We open ourselves to the joy that comes with justice.

ALL: We make room at this table for joy in all its forms.

Passing the Peace, Welcoming Each Other to the Table

Welcome each other to this time of worship, to this place of belonging.

Please stand in body or spirit.

*Hymn #394 In Christ There Is No East or West

Black Hymnal/New Century Hymnal

1. In Christ there is no East or West, in Christ no South or North; But one community of love throughout the whole wide earth.
2. In Christ shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find; God's service is the golden cord close binding human kind.
3. In Christ is neither Jew nor Greek, and neither slave nor free; For men and women live in God, and all are kin to me.
4. In Christ now meet both East and West, in Christ meet South and North; One joyous, true community throughout the whole wide earth.

Please be seated.

10:30 Worship Children's Time

Children's Church – during 10:30am Worship for ages 3-grade 5. Kids start in worship with their family and are invited forward for a children's time, They then leave with Ms. Tiffany and return before worship is over.

Song:

THERE ARE PROMISES

There are promises

For you and me

In the B-I-B-L-E

All God's promises

We can See

In the B-I-B-L-E

I'm gonna stand up tall

And spin around

Jump up high

And shout out loud "woo hoo"

There are promises

For you and me

In the B-I-B-L-E



Also kids are invited to the Education Hour and Faith Formation for All Ages – 9:15-10:15am on Sundays, ages 3 to grade 7.

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.

Repeat Song

Preparation to Hear God's Word
As We Gather at Your Table (vs. 1)
 #332 New Century Hymnal

A D A F#m Bm A Dsus4 D

1. As we gath - er at your Ta - ble, As we lis - ten to your Word, _

Gmaj7 D F#m A D Em7 A7 Dsus4 D

1. Help us know, O God, your pres - ence: Let our hearts and minds be stirred. _

A D G Bm A7 D A7 Bm

1. Nour - ish _ us with sa - cred sto - ry Till we _ claim it as our own;

A Bm D A F#m Em7 A7 Dsus4 D

1. Teach us through this ho - ly ban - quet How to make Love's vic - t'ry known. _

Scripture

Philippians 2: 1-13 and Matthew 21: 23-32 (MSG)

Reader 1: We celebrate our common communion table with people all over the world. Through Jesus, we are brought to-

gether and no matter how we got there, believing in the host of this Table makes our joy complete! Let us share our stories, our compassion, our sympathy as part of one human family that shares the love of Christ in the breaking of the bread! Hear now this scripture from the second chapter of the Letter to the Philippians that was written by the apostle Paul while he was in prison, followed by a remembrance of what Jesus said in the Gospel of Matthew. Imagine those early Christian Philippians gathered at a table, reading these words to one another and remembering the words of Jesus:

Reader 2: If you've gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if his love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you care — then do me a favor: Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends. Don't push your way to the front; don't sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand.

Reader 1: Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself. He had equal status with God but didn't think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became human! Having become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn't claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death — and the worst kind of death at that — a crucifixion.

Reader 2: Because of that obedience, God lifted him high and honored him far beyond anyone or anything, ever, so that all created beings in heaven and on earth — even those long ago dead and buried—will bow in worship before

this Jesus Christ, and call out in praise that he is the Master of all, to the glorious honor of God the Sovereign.

Reader 1: What I'm getting at, friends, is that you should simply keep on doing what you've done from the beginning. When I was living among you, you lived in responsive obedience. Now that I'm separated from you, keep it up. Better yet, redouble your efforts. Be energetic in your life of salvation, reverent and sensitive before God. That energy is God's energy, an energy deep within you, God is willing and working at what will give the most pleasure.

Reader 2: Do you remember the story Jesus told to his disciples about the two sons who were asked to work in their father's vineyard? "A man had two sons. He went up to the first and said, 'Son, go out for the day and work in the vineyard.' The son answered, 'I don't want to.' Later on he thought better of it and went. The father gave the same command to the second son. He answered, 'Sure, glad to.' But he never went." So Jesus asked, "Which of the two sons did what the father asked?" The disciples said, "The first."

Reader 1: "Jesus said, 'Yes, and I tell you that crooks and outcasts are going to precede you into God's kingdom. John came to you showing you the right road. You turned up your noses at him, but the crooks and outcasts believed him. Even when you saw their changed lives, you didn't care enough to change and believe him.'"

All readers: "Hear! Hear!"

Music Offering

8:00 Heritage Choir Break and Share It Eugene Butler

10:30 High School Choir 10,000 Reasons "Bless the Lord"

Jonas Myrin & Matt Redman, Choral Setting by Lloyd Larson

Prayer

At This Table

**Choir sings the first time, Pastor prays,
congregation repeats the song.**

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in 3/8 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of eight measures of music. The lyrics are: 'At this ta - ble we lift our voi - ces in prayer. At this ta - ble we seek your peace. At this ta - ble we know you have drawn near. At this ta - ble we find re - lease.' The lyrics are placed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across two notes. Measure numbers 3, 4, 6, 7, and 8 are printed at the beginning of their respective lines.

At this ta - ble we lift our
3 voi - ces in prayer. At this
4 ta - ble we seek your peace. At this
6 ta - ble we know you
7 have drawn near. At this
8 ta - ble we find re - lease.

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Thank you for the many ways in which you support God's work and God's people here in Neffs and in the community and world.

NEWS ABOUT THE MINISTRY AND MISSION OF GOD'S CHURCH

OFFERING

**Donate to God's Mission and Ministry at UNION UCC
Because of YOU our church changes lives....**

Here are some of the ways you can share your financial generosity at Union.

• **ELECTRONIC GIVING** <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z51X/home> or use the QR code with your cell phone. Choose an ongoing regular donation or a single donation with your credit or debit card. (Help us with fees if you can.)



Vanco

• **FREE Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement app**
Look for our church Union United Church of Christ, Neffs, PA and register your information to contribute.



Venmo

• **Venmo @unionuccneffs** Make a donation or pay for a fundraiser or event. Complete "What's this for?" See QR code.

• **Cash or checks (to "Union UCC")** Place in the offering plate with a member offering envelope or guest envelope (in the seat racks) or drop in the mail if you're not in person. Contact John Harting (610-799-2508) or Don Penrod (610-972-8719) or Pastor Kris if you have questions or if you'd like to learn more about other giving options or legacy gifts to Union.

Music Offering:

It Is Well with My Soul Horatio G. Spafford and Philip P. Bliss
Blake Hoppes

Please stand in body or spirit.

*** Offering Response**

**ALL: For the beauty of the earth,
For the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies;
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.**

HOLY COMMUNION

Everyone is welcome to this meal of love and grace. You will be served in your seats. Please wait to eat and drink until the Pastor invites you to do so.

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.

Leader: Listen! The body breathes in together... and out. As close as breath, the Holy is present with us, reminding us that there is always room for us, room for all. So we lift up our hearts. And the family says, "We lift them up to God."

People: "We lift them up to God!"

Let us give thanks to the Holy Living One because it is the right thing to do, not only now, but always, for "always" is when God is with us.

I invite you to open both palms upward in the sign language for "give."

We thank you, Creator God, that you formed every one of us—giving us your image—the desire for relationship.

Now place your hands together in the sign meaning “to be with.”

We thank you, Sustainer God, that you are here with us and call us to be with one and for one another.

Bring your hands close to your face, in the sign for “prayer.”
Become aware of your breath on your hands...

We thank you, God, for breathing into us the breath of life. Even when we have turned away, you have remained with us, close as breath. Help us to remain close with one another, offering the breath of life wherever we can.

And so, we open our eyes, our hands and our hearts to your will for us as told to us through your prophets. We join our voices together praising you along with all who do, have ever done so and ever will do so,

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, God of the
heaven - ly host; Heav - en and earth are full, are full of the
majes-ty of your glo-ry, Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the
high - est! Blessed the one who comes in the name of our God, Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est!

Leader: Listen people! The Lord is with you.
He healed the sick, fed the hungry...
and sat down at the table and ate with especially those
others considered "unworthy."
Let us remind ourselves by saying "The Lord is present with
every one."

People: "The Lord is present with every one."

Leader: 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."

Leader: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and
on these gifts of bread and wine. Let them be for us the
body and blood of Christ so that we may be for the world
the body of Christ, liberated by his life and witness. Be with
us, Holy Spirit, fill us so you can move through us, welcoming
all to the family.

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

**Everyone is welcome to this meal of love and grace.
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.

THE BREAD

**HYMN #342 Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread
Black Hymnal/New Century Hymnal**

- 1. Be known to us in breaking bread,
but do not then depart; O Savior, stay with us and
spread your table in our heart.**
- 2. Here share with us in love divine,
your body and your blood;
That living bread that heavenly wine,
be our immortal food.**

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

THE CUP

HYMN Here I Am, Lord
**1. I, the Lord of sea and sky
I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save**

[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**

**2. 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

**3. I, the Lord of snow and rain
I have borne my people's pain
I have wept for love of them
They turn away**

Chorus

**4. I will break their hearts of stone
Give them hearts for love alone
I will speak my words to them
Whom shall I send?**

Chorus

**5. 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**

[Chorus]

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

The Blessing

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

COLLECTING OF CUPS

HYMN #8 Come to the Banquet Sing! Prayer and Praise

♩=85 Dm C Dm Last time, Fine

Come to the ban-quet, there's a place for you!

1. Though you may - be have no mon - ey,
2. See, you are an hon - ored guest, from
3. Wo - man wise one, mo - ther, maid - en,
4. Work - er, fath - er, lit - tle boy, old
5. Wheth - er you've, been lost or faith - ful,
6. Here is one who runs to meet you,

C A?

though you may - be feel un - wor - thy
 con - stant serv - ing you may rest; so
 see your plate with food is la - den
 man or youth with - out em - ploy, come
 wheth - er you've been wise or waste - ful,
 lov - ing arms stretched out to greet you.

Dm Bb

in your strength or in your weak - ness
 sit you down, be fed and blessed, for
 and your place is set and wait - ing,
 rest your wor - ty, here is joy, and
 here's a place of rest and grace, and
 Do not let your fear de - feat you.

Am Dm D.C.

you are wel - come, come.

7. Willing hands have made this bread with yeast and salt and labor shared.
 Let all hungry ones be fed. It's time for feasting, come.

8. Abundant wine, enough for all! Our generous, loving host has called.
 The cup of blessing now is poured for sweet communion, come.

Please stand in body or spirit.

***Benediction**

This Table of Joy requires much of us.
It asks us not to rely on expecting to feel good all the time
in order to do good in the world.
It shows us that we can have fuller, more invigorating lives
when we choose to cultivate a practice of joy
by staying fully present to ourselves and one another
and by staying open to the unexpected movements of
Spirit.

The grace of God abounds!
The invitation of Christ is wide!
The power of the transforming Spirit will surprise us
every time!

May the blessings of joy you find here
go with you and move through you to others
wherever you go this week.
Let the people say, "Amen!"

ALL: Amen!

* **Hymn** #347 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ
Black Hymnal, New Century Hymnal

**1. Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.**

**Refrain: Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass
the Word around: loaves abound!**

2. Christ is able to make us one,

**at his table he set the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love in word and indeed express.**

Refrain.

Postlude Music

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart
Tune: Morecambe, Frederick C. Atkinson

Blake Hoppes

Holy Grounds Coffee Hour on Sundays

Enjoy some coffee, tea, juice, hot chocolate, and snacks
on Sundays in Memorial Hall after both worship services.

Upcoming hosts include:

10/1– Consistory and Leadership Planning Team/
Congregational Forums

10/8– Fellowship Committee

10/15- Christian Ed

10/22– Welcoming Committee

10/29– Church and Ministry

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)	
Last Week	
Calendar Year 2023 (Jan-July)	\$223,865.00
Calendar Year 2022 (Jan-July)	\$226,189.00
Change from Last Year	-1.0%
Budget FY 2023-24 (July)	\$33,220.00
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (July)	\$27,821.00
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	-16.3%
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>	

Attendance Last Week	
	In person
8:00 am	36
10:30 am	109
Education Hour	6
2023 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Last Week:	670lbs
Total YTD:	3,977lbs, \$1010

Presentations to the Glory of God

**In memory of Ruth Rothrock from Lucille Kuhns,
Lana Reitz, and Leoma Kern and family**

**Honor of Ryan & Brooke Correll's Wedding today,
Love Mom**

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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