

Come to the Table... of Love



WORSHIP
DESIGN STUDIO
WDS

September 10, 2023
8:00 and 10:30 Worship
The Table of Love

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 Rosalie Snyder, 10:30 Eric Minnich

Ushers: 8:00 Kerry Snyder, Tom Anderson

10:30 Carol James, Ruth Ruch, Janice Metzger, Julie Johnson, Laura Kohler, Ralph Gioielli, Connie Gioielli

Greeters: Mark & Debbie Daluisio, Gene and Christina Thrash

Sound: Doug Albert

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

Prelude Music

Blessed Assurance Fanny J. Crosby, Phoebe P. Knapp
Blake Hoppes

Welcome

Setting the Table

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

Choir sings first time, then everyone the second time.

F C7 F F7/C

Come to the ta - ble of love.

Bb C F C

Come to the ta - ble of love.

F Bb/F F7 Bb Bb7

This is God's ta - ble, it's not yours or mine.

F/C C7 F F

Come to the ta - ble of love.

Leader: Today we continue with our current worship series, "Come to the Table." This week, we explore how love is baked into the bread we break each time we gather in Jesus' name, around God's table. But we don't need to save this love only for the times when we partake in the

ritual of communion. We invoke love every day when we sit down at our kitchen tables for home-cooked meals or takeout, for game night with friends and family, or even for difficult conversations with our loved ones. Love is present in the sweetest, the spiciest, the bitterest, and the blandest moments of our everyday lives, because love is God, and God is love.

ALL sing: Come to the Table

Taking Our Place, Opening to Others

Leader: We come to this table not only for food, but for friendship and family.

ALL: We are here not only to eat, but to serve.

Leader: We prepare our meal of bread and fruit of the vine with compassion.

ALL: We invite everyone to join in the feast.

Leader: We are all part of one human family.

ALL: We are united in love.

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 #454 Lord, I Want to Be A Christian (Black Hymnal/ New Century Hymnal)**

**1. Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart;
Lord I want to be a Christian in my heart.**

**Refrain: In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.**

2. Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart,

Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.

Refrain

3. Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.

Refrain

4. Lord, I want to be more like Jesus in my heart, in my heart
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.

Refrain

Please be seated.

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



Starting September 17th!

Children's Church – during 10:30am Worship for ages

3-grade 5. Kids start in worship with their family and then leave with Ms. Tiffany during the Children's Time and return before worship is over.

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.

Today: Blessing of the Backpacks, Devices, Students, Educators, School Stuff, and all Learners and Growers!

Leader: God, thank you for new opportunities to learn and grow in this upcoming school year. Be with our teachers, leaders, caregivers, bus drivers, crossing guards, cafeteria workers, janitors, office staff, support staff, and administrators as they guide us into the new school year. Give them the tools and energy to create engaging ways to learn and grow.

Help us to open our hearts and minds to new ideas, new friends, new leaders, and new ways of learning.
Show us how to seek joy in all things.
When things don't go as planned, help us rejoice in the new experience.

God, pour out your blessing upon these students, families, teachers, and leaders. Bless their backpacks, Chromebooks, classrooms, school buildings, and all preparations that help build a wonderful school experience.

May each of you be a blessing and light in your new year!
Go and light up the world!
Amen.

Repeat Song

Preparation to Hear God's Word

As We Gather at Your Table (vs. 1)

#332 New Century Hymnal

The musical score is written in treble clef, key of D major (two sharps), and 2/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. Above each staff are guitar chords and the corresponding lyrics. The lyrics are: "1. As we gather at your Table, As we listen to your Word, — Help us know, O God, your presence: Let our hearts and minds be stirred. — Nourish us with sacred story Till we claim it as our own; Teach us through this holy banquet How to make Love's victory known. —"

Chords for Staff 1: A, D, A, F#m, Bm, A, Dsus4, D

Chords for Staff 2: Gmaj7, D, F#m, A, D, Em7, A7, Dsus4, D

Chords for Staff 3: A, D, G, Bm, A7, D, A7, Bm

Chords for Staff 4: A, Bm, D, A, F#m, Em7, A7, Dsus4, D

Scripture

Romans 13: 8-14 and Matthew 18: 15-20 (MSG)

Reader 1: Jesus often confounded those for whom acceptance was conditional — those who required specific laws be followed “or else.” The litmus test for Jesus was simply love. He chose time and again to seek out the intention of someone’s heart — to gather together and engage in conversation as a way of moving toward right relationship. What happens when we seek to “do no wrong” to our neighbor, moving beyond boundaries into reciprocal understanding? Hear now this scripture advice from the 13th chapter of the Letter to the Romans, followed by a remembrance of what Jesus said in the Gospel of Matthew. Imagine those early Christian Romans gathered at a table, reading this advice to one another and remembering the words of Jesus:

Reader 2: Don't run up debts, except for the huge debt of love you owe each other. When you love others, you complete what the law has been after all along. The law code — don't sleep with another person's spouse, don't take someone's life, don't take what isn't yours, don't always be wanting what you don't have, and any other "don't" you can think of — finally adds up to this: Love other people as well as you do yourself. You can't go wrong when you love others. When you add up everything in the law code, the sum total is love. But make sure that you don't get so absorbed and exhausted in taking care of all your day-by-day obligations that you lose track of the time and doze off, oblivious to God. The night is about over, dawn is about to break.

Reader 3: Be up and awake to what God is doing! God is putting the finishing touches on the salvation work God began when we first believed. We can't afford to waste a minute, must not squander these precious daylight hours in frivolity and indulgence, in sleeping around and dissipation, in bickering and grabbing everything in sight. Get out of bed and get dressed! Don't loiter and linger, waiting until the very last minute. Dress yourselves in Christ, and be up and about! Do you remember what Jesus said to his disciples about how to make amends after a disagreement? "If a fellow believer hurts you, go and tell him — work it out between the two of you. If he listens, you've made a friend. If he won't listen, take one or two others along so that the presence of witnesses will keep things honest, and try again. If he still won't listen, tell the church. If he won't listen to the church, you'll have to start over from scratch, confront him with the need for repentance, and offer again God's forgiving love."

Reader 1: I do remember that! Jesus also said, "Take this most seriously: A yes on earth is yes in heaven; a no on earth

is no in heaven. What you say to one another is eternal. I mean this. When two of you get together on anything at all on earth and make a prayer of it, my Abba God in heaven goes into action. And when two or three of you are together because of me, you can be sure that I'll be there."

All readers: "Hear! Hear!"

The Message Carrie Beleno, Visitation Pastor

Prayer

At This Table

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

The musical score is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a time signature of 6/8. 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 score consists of eight lines of music, with measure numbers 3, 4, 6, 7, and 8 indicated at the beginning of their respective lines. The final line ends with a double bar line.

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.)

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

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



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· **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.

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Music Offering

Exodus Ernest Gold, Pat Boone

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.**

***Benediction**

Leader: This Table of Love requires much of us. It insists that we love one another as we love ourselves, and that we love ourselves as we love others. Love asks that we raise one another up by saying, “Yes, you are worthy! You are welcome at this table.” When we surrender to the mysterious ways of love, we may be surprised to find just how much there is to go around.

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 love 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** #677 They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love
(Gold Hymnal/Hymns for the Family of God)

**1. We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored:**

**And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

**2. We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land:**

**And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

**3. We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
And we'll guard each man's dignity and save each man's
pride:**

**And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

**4. All praise to the Father, from who all things come,
And all praise to Christ Jesus, His only Son,
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one:**

**And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

Postlude Music

More Love, More Power Jude Del Hierro

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:

9/10 & 9/17– Sunday Staff

9/24 & 10/1– Consistory and Leadership Planning Team/
Congregational Forums

10/8– Fellowship Committee

10/15– Christian Ed

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)		Attendance Last Week	
Last Week	\$5,684.00		In person
Calendar Year 2023 (Jan-July)	\$223,865.00	8:00 am	n/a
Calendar Year 2022 (Jan-July)	\$226,189.00	10:30 am	69
Change from Last Year	-1.0%	Education Hour	
Budget FY 2023-24 (July)	\$33,220.00	2022 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Actual Fiscal Year-to- Date (July)	\$27,821.00	Last Week:	\$50
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	-16.3%	Total YTD:	3,307lbs, \$835
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>		Neighbors in Need	\$518.00

Presentations to the Glory of God

In loving memory of grandparents, Eleanor and Norman
Peters and Iva Kern. Love, Ann Peters

Flowers on the altar In memory of Janet Snyder and all who
suffer from multiple sclerosis

*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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