

# Come to the Table... of Peace



WORSHIP  
DESIGN STUDIO  
WDS

**September 17, 2023**  
**8:00 and 10:30 Worship**  
**10:30 Baptisms**  
**The Table of Peace**

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

Lay Readers: 8:00 Ron Pope, 10:30 Carol Pope  
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  
Greeters: Bruce & Chris Roth, Jim & Edie Fella  
Sound: Pat Sorg

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

## **Prelude Music**

Blessings

Laura Story Victoria Toto

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.**

*Leader:* The table of peace can take almost any shape. Our table this week is a conference table, perhaps depicting where two or more parties meet to negotiate the terms of a contract, a settlement, or a ceasefire. For Jesus, peacemaking was often found in the act of sharing a meal with people who would have been considered “outsiders.” We like to imagine Jesus in perfect harmony with everyone who gathered with him at the table — but perhaps sometimes even he held his breath when he brought people together with opposing viewpoints. Today we come to the table of peace, ready to practice patience and compassion, even when we disagree

## **ALL sing: Come to the Table**

Musical notation for the song "Come to the Table". The notation is in 3/4 time, G major, and treble clef. The melody consists of the following notes: F4 (quarter), G4-A4 (eighths), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter), and B3 (quarter). The lyrics "Come to the table of peace." are written below the notes. Chord symbols are placed above the staff: F above the first note, C7 above the second measure, F above the third measure, and F7/C above the fourth measure.

B $\flat$  C F C

Come to the ta - ble of peace.

F B $\flat$ /F F7 B $\flat$  B $\flat$ 7

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

F/C C7 F F

Come to the ta - ble of peace.

### Taking Our Place, Opening to Others

Leader: We gather today to listen, to learn, and to love.

**ALL: We are ready to share and to hear what others have to say.**

Leader: Though we are all different, we yearn to find a mutual understanding.

**ALL: We are standing on common ground.**

Leader: We take our seat at the Table of Peace.

**ALL: We know that God is already here!**

### 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 #478 I've Got Peace Like A River**  
(Black Hymnal/New Century Hymnal)

**1. I've Got Peace Like A River**

**I've Got Peace Like A River**

**I've Got Peace Like A River In My Soul,**

I've Got Peace Like A River  
I've Got Peace Like A River  
I've Got Peace Like A River In My Soul.

2. I've Got Joy Like A Fountain  
I've Got Joy Like A Fountain  
I've Got Joy Like A Fountain In My Soul,  
I've Got Joy Like A Fountain  
I've Got Joy Like A Fountain  
I've Got Joy Like A Fountain In My Soul.

3. I've Got Love Like An Ocean  
I've Got Love Like An Ocean  
I've Got Love Like An Ocean In My Soul,  
I've Got Love Like An Ocean  
I've Got Love Like An Ocean  
I've Got Love Like An Ocean In My Soul.

4. I've Got Faith Like an Anchor  
I've Got Faith Like an Anchor  
I've Got Faith Like an Anchor In My Soul  
I've Got Faith Like an Anchor  
I've Got Faith Like an Anchor  
I've Got Faith Like an Anchor In My Soul.

**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

### SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

**Amelia Charlotte Lorah** child of Alexis and Isaac Lorah  
Sponsors: Zach Glassic and Rebekah Lorah

**Quinn Leona Pradel** child of Kristen Haugh and Robert Pradel  
Sponsors: Robin Haugh & Dan Haugh

**Hunter William Serfass** child of Jasmine Garris and Jacob

Serfass

Sponsors: Alexis Eberly and Trent Viola

**Jacob Hunter Beers** child of Cassandra and Jarret Beers

Sponsors: Kevin Hamm and Melissa Hamm

**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.

**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

*Reader 1:* We welcome each other at the table even when we disagree. Coming to tables of peacemaking is hard work. We must be willing to suspend our propensity for making ourselves the judge of others. Accountability AND forgiveness are on the menu at God's table and we are called to sit down and find merciful ways to deal with one another despite our differences. Hear now this scripture advice from the 14th 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* Welcome with open arms fellow believers who don't see things the way you do. And don't jump all over them every time they do or say something you don't agree with — even when it seems that they are strong on opinions but weak in the faith department. Remember, they have their own history to deal with. Treat them gently.

*For instance, a person who has been around for a while might well be convinced that he can eat anything on the table, while another, with a different background, might assume he should only be a vegetarian and eat accordingly. But since both are guests at Christ's table, wouldn't it be terribly rude if they fell to criticizing what the other ate or didn't eat?*

*Reader 1:* God, after all, invited them both to the table. Do you have any business crossing people off the guest list or interfering with God's welcome? If there are corrections to be made or manners to be learned, God can handle that without your help.

*Or, say, one person thinks that some days should be set aside as holy and another thinks that each day is pretty*

much like any other. There are good reasons either way. So, each person is free to follow the convictions of conscience. Reader 2: What's important in all this is that if you keep a holy day, keep it for God's sake; if you eat meat, eat it to the glory of God and thank God for prime rib; if you're a vegetarian, eat vegetables to the glory of God and thank God for broccoli. None of us are permitted to insist on our own way in these matters.

Reader 1: So where does that leave you when you criticize a brother? And where does that leave you when you condescend to a sister? I'd say it leaves you looking pretty silly — or worse. Eventually, we're all going to end up kneeling side by side in the place of judgment, facing God. Your critical and condescending ways aren't going to improve your position there one bit. Read it for yourself in Scripture:

“As I live and breathe,” God says,  
“every knee will bow before me;  
Every tongue will tell the honest truth  
that I and only I am God.”

So mind your own business. You've got your hands full just taking care of your own life before God.

Do you remember what Jesus said about forgiveness? Peter asked, “How many times do I forgive a brother or sister who hurts me? Seven?” Jesus replied, “Seven! Hardly. Try seventy times seven.”

**All readers: “Hear! Hear!”**

## **8:00 Music Offering Heritage Choir**

Tender Lord, Precious Lord Douglas E. Wagner

**The Message** The Table of Peace Pastor Kris

**Prayer**  
At This Table



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

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**

O Magnify the Lord Michael O'Shields  
**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 Peace requires much of us.  
It asks us to listen to others when we are bursting with words  
of our own.

It asks us to speak with courage and grace when perhaps  
we would rather stay silent.

It asks us to be patient when we are raring to go!  
It asks us to save a seat for people whose opinions differ  
from ours,  
and to treat everyone with kindness and dignity,  
because we need each other — all of us — to survive.

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 peace 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** #249 Peace I Leave with You, My Friends  
(Black Hymnal, New Century Hymnal)

**REFRAIN**

**Peace I Leave With You, My Friends:  
Shalom My Peace, In All You Do.  
Peace I Leave With You, My Friends,  
I Give To You, So You Can Give To Others, Too.**

**1. To Share God's Love Is Why I Came,  
To Show God's Kindness To The World  
Go Now My Friends And Do The Same,  
Until I Come Again...**

**REFRAIN**

**2. Take My Hand And Be At Peace,  
The Spirit Of Our Love I Send;  
And With This Love You Will Be Free,  
Until I Come Again...**

**REFRAIN**

**3. With This Love You All Will Know,  
That Loneliness Is At An End,  
Rejoice My People Though I Go  
For I Will Come Again...**

**REFRAIN**

**Postlude Music**

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling  
John Zundel, Arr. Joel Randy  
**Blake Hoppes**

# EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)		Attendance Last Week	
Last Week			In person
Calendar Year 2023 (Jan-July)	\$223,865.00	8:00 am	<b>36</b>
Calendar Year 2022 (Jan-July)	\$226,189.00	10:30 am	<b>74</b>
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 ( <i>July</i> )	\$27,821.00	Last Week:	
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

*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.*

### **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:

9/17– Sunday Staff

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

10/8– Fellowship Committee

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