

# Come to the Table... of Grace



**September 24, 2023  
8:00 and 10:30 Worship  
Harvest Home  
The Table of Grace**

***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 Michael Roth, 10:30 Suzanne Schneider  
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  
Greeters: Carol & Ron Pope, Johanna & Greg Zellner  
Sound: Mike Baer

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

### **Prelude Music**

Come, Christians Join to Sing Tune: Madrid  
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:* At the table of grace, there is always more than enough to go around. Everybody makes mistakes, and we have all needed forgiveness at some point and gentle guidance to adjust and make amends. Grace doesn't keep track of how many times we've messed up, and it doesn't hinge on the condition that next time, we'll do better. Grace exists outside of time and says we are enough, right now and always, no matter what. Let us rise in body or spirit as we sing together and proclaim grace for ourselves and for one another!

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

The musical score is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of three staves of music. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The notes are: F4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter). Chord symbols above the staff are: F, C7, F, F7/C. The lyrics are: "Come to the ta - ble of grace." The second staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The notes are: Bb4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter). Chord symbols above the staff are: Bb, C, F, C. The lyrics are: "Come to the ta - ble of grace." The third staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The notes are: F4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter). Chord symbols above the staff are: F, Bb/F, F7, Bb, Bb7. The lyrics are: "This is God's ta - ble, it's not yours or mine."



### **Taking Our Place, Opening to Others**

Leader: We often invoke the idea of “grace” when we say a blessing over our meals.

**ALL: We know that grace is an essential need for our survival.**

Leader: We “say grace,” but do we always share grace with others?

**ALL: We need reminders that we are all human.**

Leader: We thank God for another opportunity to make room at the table for others.

**ALL: We give thanks for such a large table!**

### **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 #422** Come, O Thankful People, Come  
(Black Hymnal/New Century Hymnal)

**1. Come, O thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home; all is safely gathered in as the winter storms begin; God our Maker does provide for our wants to be supplied; come to God’s own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.**

**2. All the blessing of the field, all the stores the gardens yield, all the fruits in full supply, ripened ‘neath the summer**

sky, All that spring with bounteous hand scatters o'er the smiling land, all that liberal autumn pours from its rich o'erflowing stores,

3. These to you, our God we owe, source from whom all blessings flow; and for these our songs we raise, grateful vows and solemn praise. Come, then, thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home; come to God's own temple come, raise the song of harvest home.

Please be seated.

### 10:30 Worship Children's Time

**Children's Church** – during 10:30am Worship for ages 3-5 grade. 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 1: 21-30 and Matthew 20: 1-16 (MSG)  
 Reader 1: God's table is one of plenty! God decides how much to give and gives more than we can ever imagine; more grace than we expect. God even gives more than we

would give ourselves. In the face of such abundance, we are called to be generous as God is generous. Indeed, at God's pot-luck of grace, even the last in line have more than enough to eat! Hear now this scripture from the first 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 1: Through your faithful prayers and the generous response of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, everything he wants to do in and through me will be done. I can hardly wait to continue on my course. I don't expect to be embarrassed in the least.*

*Reader 2: On the contrary, everything happening to me in this jail only serves to make Christ more accurately known, regardless of whether I live or die. They didn't shut me up; they gave me a platform! Alive, I'm Christ's messenger; dead, I'm his prize. Life versus even more life! I can't lose. As long as I'm alive in this body, there is good work for me to do. If I had to choose right now, I hardly know which I'd choose. Hard choice! The desire to break camp here and be with Christ is powerful. Some days I can think of nothing better.*

*Reader 1: But most days, because of what you are going through, I am sure that it's better for me to stick it out here. So I plan to be around awhile, companion to you as your growth and joy in this life of trusting God continues. You can start looking forward to a great reunion when I come visit you again. We'll be praising Christ, enjoying each other. Meanwhile, live in such a way that you are a credit to the Message of Christ. Let nothing in your conduct hang on whether I come or not. Your conduct must be the same whether I show up to see things for myself or hear of it from a*

distance. Stand united, singular in vision, contending for people's trust in the Message, the good news, not flinching or dodging in the slightest before the opposition.

Reader 2: Your courage and unity will show them what they're up against: defeat for them, victory for you — and both because of God. There's far more to this life than trusting in Christ. There's also suffering for him. And the suffering is as much a gift as the trusting. You're involved in the same kind of struggle you saw me go through, on which you are now getting an updated report in this letter.

Reader 1: Do you remember the story that Jesus told to his disciples about the vineyard workers? "God's kingdom is like an estate manager who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. They agreed on a wage of a dollar a day, and went to work." Oh yeah! "Later, about nine o'clock, the manager saw some other men hanging around the town square unemployed. He told them to go to work in his vineyard and he would pay them a fair wage. They went. He did the same thing at noon, and again at three o'clock, and again at five o'clock." "When the day's work was over, the owner of the vineyard instructed his foreman, 'Call the workers in and pay them their wages. Start with the last hired and go on to the first.' Those hired at five o'clock came up and were each given a dollar. When those who were hired first saw that, they assumed they would get far more. But they got the same, each of them one dollar. Taking the dollar, they groused angrily to the manager, 'These last workers put in only one easy hour, and you just made them equal to us, who [worked] all day under a scorching sun.'"

Reader 2: "He replied to the one speaking for the rest, 'Friend, I haven't been unfair. We agreed on the wage of a dollar, didn't we? So take it and go. I decided to give to the one who came last the same as you. Can't I do what I want with my own money? Are you going to get stingy because I

am generous?’ Here it is again, the Great Reversal: many of the first ending up last, and the last first.’”

**All readers: “Hear! Hear!”**

**Music Offering**

**8:00 Heritage Choir 10:30 Horizon Choir**

**All Good Gifts with “For the Beauty of the Earth”**

**Words & Music by Joseph M. Martin**

**The Message**    The Table of Grace    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





### **Psalm 65 Thanksgiving for Earth's Bounty**

**Psalm 65:1 is the verse that appears in German over the archway.**

#### **Left/Piano side:**

Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion;  
and to you shall vows be performed,  
O you who answer prayer!  
To you all flesh shall come.  
When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us,  
you forgive our transgressions.  
Happy are those whom you choose and bring near  
to live in your courts.  
We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house,  
your holy temple.

#### **Right/Podium Side:**

By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance,  
O God of our salvation;  
you are the hope of all the ends of the earth  
and of the farthest seas.  
By your strength you established the mountains;  
you are girded with might.  
You silence the roaring of the seas,  
the roaring of their waves,  
the tumult of the peoples.  
Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your  
signs;  
you make the gateways of the morning and the evening  
shout for joy.

#### **ALL:**

You visit the earth and water it,

you greatly enrich it;  
the river of God is full of water;  
you provide the people with grain,  
for so you have prepared it.  
You water its furrows abundantly,  
settling its ridges,  
softening it with showers,  
and blessing its growth.  
You crown the year with your bounty;  
your wagon tracks overflow with richness.  
The pastures of the wilderness overflow,  
the hills gird themselves with joy,  
the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,  
the valleys deck themselves with grain,  
they shout and sing together for joy.

### **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**

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**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-751X/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.

• **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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### **8am Offertory:**

I Have Found a Resting Place (In the setting of Christian Sinding's Rustle of Spring)

Gladys Blanchard Muller - Arr. Pamela French Block

### **10:30am Offertory:**

Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone) by Chris Tomlin and Louie Giglio

### **Garet Hill**

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**

This Table of Grace requires much of us.  
It insists that we withhold judgment from those who seem to  
be  
“taking the easy way out” or don’t have to work as hard as  
we feel we do.

Grace is a great equalizer —  
none of us are above receiving it, or exempt from needing  
to give it.

Perhaps the hardest grace of all  
is the grace we must have for ourselves.

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 grace 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 #395 We Plow the Field and Scatter**  
(Gold Hymnal, Hymns for the Family of God)

**1. We plow the fields and scatter The good seed on the land,**

**But it is fed and watered By God's almighty hand;  
He sends the snow in winter, The warmth to swell the  
grain, The breezes and the sunshine, And soft,  
refreshing rain. All good gifts around us  
Are sent from heaven above: Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord  
For all His love.**

**2. He only is the maker Of all things near and far, He  
paints the way side flower, He lights the evening star;  
The winds and waves obey Him, By Him the birds are  
fed: Much more, to us His children He gives our daily  
bread. All good gifts around us  
Are sent from heaven above: Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord  
For all His love.**

**3. We thank Thee, then, O Father, For all things bright  
and good The seed time and the harvest, Our life, our  
health, our food; Accept the fits we offer For all Thy  
love imparts, And what Thou most desirest, Our  
humble, thankful hearts, All good gifts around us  
Are sent from heaven above: Then thank the Lord, O  
thank the Lord For all His love.**

### **Postlude Music**

**For the Beauty of the Earth    Folliot S. Pierpoint  
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:

**9/24 & 10/1**– Consistory and Leadership Planning  
Team/ Congregational Forums  
**10/8**– Fellowship Committee

# EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)		Attendance Last Week	
Last Week	\$11,852.00		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>181</b>
Change from Last Year	-1.0%	Education Hour	
Budget FY 2023-24 (July)	\$33,220.00	2023 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Actual Fiscal Year-to- Date (July)	\$27,821.00	Last Week:	\$175
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	-16.3%	Total YTD:	3,307lbs, \$1010
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>		Neighbors in Need	\$518.00

## Presentations to the Glory of God

**In honor of Harvest Home  
-Phil & Julie Wehr**

*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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