

September 3, 2023 10:30 Worship The Table of Hospitality

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: Lucille Kuhns

Ushers: Eric Minnich, Scott Nagle, Tami Wassum, Don Penrod, Jennifer Haley,

Suzanne Schneider

Greeters: Vicki Mayk, Geoff and Sara Jane Brace

Sound: Dawn Dengler

*Please stand in body or spirit.

Prelude Music

To God be the Glory
Fanny Crosby, Robert Lowry, W. Howard Doane
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: Welcome to our new worship series, "Come to the Table." We will hear the call to dine with Jesus — an invitation that means much more than a simple eating experience. It never was simply about eating with Jesus. The table was the place where he fed people, and also challenged them to acts of hospitality that reflect God's way. When we say "yes" to the place at Christ's table, we accept a way of life that embraces God's definition of love, peace, grace, and joy. Let's stand in body or spirit and sing this simple theme song together as we prepare to answer the invitation to the banquet laid before us!

ALL sing: Come to the Table

Taking Our Place, Opening to Others

Leader: We know that there is a place for us at this table.

ALL: Our hearts are filled with gratitude!

Leader: We notice that there is a place for those not like us.

ALL: We come ready to open our hearts beyond their current size.

Leader: We humbly take our seat.

ALL: We look into each face and know the presence of Jesus!

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 #330 Let Us Break Bread Together (New Century Hymnal)

Let us break bread together on our knees
 Let us break bread together on our knees

Refrain:

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun My God have Mercy on Me

2. Let us drink wine together on our knees Let us drink wine together on our knees

Refrain:

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun My God have Mercy on Me

3. Let us praise God together on our knees Let us praise got together on our knees

Refrain:

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun My God have Mercy on Me

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-I-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,

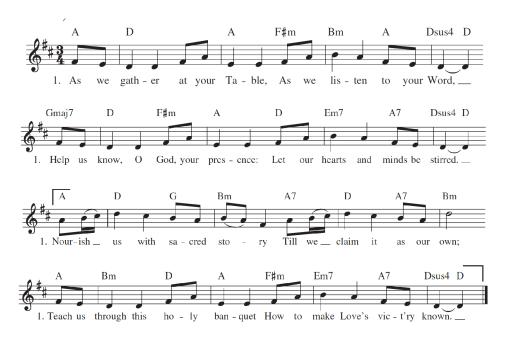
Chromebooks, classrooms, school buildings, and all preparations that help build a wonderful school experience.

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



Scripture

Romans 12: 9-21 and Matthew 16: 24-25 (MSG) Reader 1 (all readers from the table, reading from a letter): Love from the center of who you are; don't fake it. Run for dear life from evil; hold on for dear life to good. Be good friends who love deeply; practice playing second fiddle. Don't burn out; keep yourselves fueled and aflame. Be alert servants of the Master, cheerfully expectant. Don't quit in hard times; pray all the harder. Help needy Christians; be inventive in hospitality.

Reader 2: Bless your enemies; no cursing under your breath. Laugh with your happy friends when they're happy; share tears when they're down. Get along with each other; don't be stuck-up. Make friends with nobodies; don't be the great somebody. Don't hit back; discover beauty in everyone. If you've got it in you, get along with everybody. Don't insist on getting even; that's not for you to do. "I'll do the judging," says God. "I'll take care of it."

Reader 1: Our Scriptures tell us that if you see your enemy hungry, go buy that person lunch, or if [they're] thirsty, get [them] a drink. Your generosity will surprise [them] with goodness. Don't let evil get the best of you; get the best of evil by doing good! Do you remember what Jesus said to his disciples when they wanted him to be quiet in order to save himself? "Anyone who intends to come with me has to let me lead. You're not in the driver's seat; I am. Don't run from suffering; embrace it. Follow me and I'll show you how. Self-help is no help at all. Self-sacrifice is the way, my way, to finding yourself, your true self. What kind of deal is it to get everything you want but lose yourself? What could you ever trade your soul for?"

All readers: "Hear! Hear!"

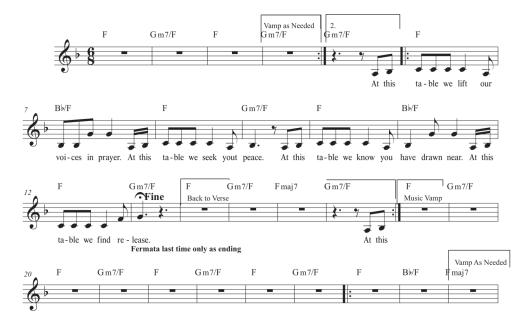
Music Offering

My Jesus Anne Wilson, Jeff Pardo & Matthew West **Julie Lane**

Prayer

At This Table

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



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 Choose an ongoing regular donation or a single donation with your credit or debit card. (Help us with fees if you can.)
- Venmo @unionuccneffs Make a donation or pay for a fundraiser or event. Complete "What's this for?"
- Mobile Giving Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement app
- 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.



Vanco



Venmo

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 Let There Be Praise Dick & Melodie Tunney 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 Hospitality requires much of us.

It demands that we question our own boundaries of "who is in" and "who is out."

It asks us to accept that the Spirit may move in surprising ways,

through surprising people,
and we might just miss out on the beauty and fullness of life
if we insist on limiting invitations to the feast.
Indeed, sometimes WE couldn't even pass our OWN litmus
test for inclusion!

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 hospitality 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 #547 The Church's One Foundation (Hymns for the Family of God)

- 1. The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord She is his new creation by water and the word From heaven He came and sought her to be his holy bride With his own blood he bought her and for her life he died
- 2. Elect from every nation yet one o'er all the earth Her charter of salvation, One Lord, one faith, one birth One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food And to one hope she presses, with every grace endued
- 3. 'Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war She waits the consummation of peace for evermore Till with the vision glorious, her longing eyes are blest And the great Church victorious shall be the Church at rest
- 4. Yet she on earth hath union with God the three in one And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won O happy ones and holy Lord give us grace that we Like them the meek and lowly on high may dwell with Thee

Postlude Music

You Are My King (Amazing Love) Billy James Foote **Blake Hoppes**

<u>Summer Coffee Hour</u> will continue on Sundays after 10:30 worship. Stop by in Memorial Hall for some cool lemonade, juice, water, and a snack and visit with friends and pastors.

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)		Attendance Last Week		
Last Week	\$7,432.00			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		130
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, \$785	
Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes		Neighbors in Need		\$518.00

In memory of Walt Disney

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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