

# Come to the Table... of Hospitality



WORSHIP  
DESIGN STUDIO  
WDS

**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](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: 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)**

1. 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 God 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-L-E



### **Starting September 17<sup>th</sup>!**

**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

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

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.

Musical score for "At This Table" in 6/8 time. The score consists of four staves of music with guitar chords and lyrics. The first staff (measures 1-6) has chords F, Gm7/F, F, and a box labeled "Vamp as Needed Gm7/F" over measures 4-5, followed by a second ending box labeled "2. Gm7/F" over measure 6. The second staff (measures 7-11) has chords Bb/F, F, Gm7/F, F, and Bb/F. The third staff (measures 12-15) has chords F, Gm7/F, F, Gm7/F, Fmaj7, Gm7/F, F, and Gm7/F. It includes a "Fine" symbol over measure 13, a "Back to Verse" instruction over measure 14, and a "Music Vamp" instruction over measure 15. The fourth staff (measures 16-19) has chords F, Gm7/F, F, Gm7/F, F, Gm7/F, F, and Bb/F, with a box labeled "Vamp As Needed Fmaj7" over measure 19. Lyrics are: "At this ta-ble we lift our voi-ces in prayer. At this ta-ble we seek yout peace. At this ta-ble we know you have drawn near. At this ta-ble we find re-lease. At this".

### 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-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.



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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**

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**

**Summer Coffee Hour** 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	<b>n/a</b>
Calendar Year 2022 (Jan-July)	\$226,189.00	10:30 am	<b>130</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 (July)	\$27,821.00	Last Week:	
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	-16.3%	Total YTD:	3,307lbs, \$785
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>		Neighbors in Need	\$518.00

## Presentations to the Glory of God

### 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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