



Resurrection Story: Healed
April 28, 2024
8am and 10:30am Worship
GATHERING AT THE GATE

GUESTS, Welcome to our faith community. To learn more about us please visit our website at www.unionucc.org or like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/unionneffs. Let us know you're here by completing the Welcome Card in the racks in front of you and hand it to a pastor or drop it in the offering plate. Feel free to call or email a pastor.

Vision Statement

UNION UCC: RELEVANT, ENGAGED, and GROWING

Mission Statement

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.

***No matter who you are or where you on life's journey,
you are welcome here.***

Union UCC is an Open and Affirming (ONA) Community.

Lay Reader: 8am Ron Pope, 10:30 Lucille Kuhns
Ushers: 8am Cliff James, Carol James, Michael Haftl, Daniel Haftl
10:30 am Jason Klinger, Andy Dyszel, Ashleigh Albert, Claire Kern,
Gene Thrash, Marlene Blose, Dale Blose
Greeters: Jim & Leanna Lane, Gene & Christina Thrash
Sound: Pat Sorg

GATHERING AT THE GATE

“I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.” — John 11: 25-26, NRSVUE

The Easter Season is a time of celebrating all the ways in which resurrection is possible in our lives. We can be in need of rising out of the depth of imprisonment, addiction, poverty, illness, and oppression — not just physically and literally, but also spiritually. What keeps us locked up inside? What holds us back from the joy of life? What binds us, keeping us from the fullness of who God created us to be? Join us for powerful testimonies of courage, kindness, strength, and overcoming — Resurrection Stories — from those who have found “resurrection” in their lives. It might just inspire you to unlock your own rising up!

Prelude Music

My Jesus, I Love Thee
Adoniram J. Gordon (Tune: Gordon)

Blake Hoppes

Welcome

The Collective Story of Resurrection

Leader: Illness of mind, body, or spirit can sap us of our life passion and energy. Sometimes illness can change the course of our lives forever, asking us to adapt in ways we never imagined. And while illness is not visited upon anyone by God’s design, sometimes limitations open our eyes to other possibilities. We will look for a different perspective on how we deal with any life-altering situation.

Rise Up in Us

Amanda Udis-Kessler

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Rise Up in Us'. It is written in G major (one flat) and 3/4 time. The score consists of six staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: 'Rise up in us and we will rise from death in - to a new - found life: from bond - age freed, from harm re - leased, from ill - ness healed, as one in peace. When all is lost our hearts are warmed, our hope re - stored, our lives trans - formed. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ial.' The score includes measure numbers 3, 6, 9, 12, and 15.

Text and music © 2024 Amanda Udis-Kessler. All rights reserved.
Email: amanda@amandaudiskessler.com New hymns: queersacredmusic.com
Permission is given for free use of this worship song.

Please share it with clergy, musicians, and other worship planners for their possible use. Thank you.

Leader: The disciples returned to the Sea of Galilee, a place where they had spent much time in ministry with Jesus, when he appeared to them again by the shore.

ALL: When we struggle or face an uncertain future, we sometimes seek familiar places, geographies of the heart, places that offer us a sense of being well.

Leader: Simon Peter said to the disciples gathered with him: "I'm going fishing." The disciples eagerly joined him in the boat, but they fished all night and caught nothing.

ALL: Even when our lives have been altered and our paths have changed,

setbacks can tempt us to try to go back to the way things were before.

Leader: Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach, but the disciples did not recognize him. Jesus said, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" The disciples said, "No."

ALL: Regardless of how futile our old ways were, we try them again, finding false comfort in the familiar, yet not truly finding the healing we seek.

Leader: Jesus told the disciples to cast their net on the other side of the boat. They followed his direction and caught so many fish they were unable to haul in the net.

ALL: We can become so overwhelmed with struggles that we forget to let go of our frustrations in order to seek new ways of being, new paths to peace.

Leader: Amid the flopping fish, the disciple whom Jesus loved recognized him, saying, "It is the Lord." Peter put clothes on and jumped into the sea—eager to rush to Jesus.

ALL: When we embrace new ways of being in the midst of life-changing circumstances, we often are filled with hope.

Leader: The other disciples, seeing that they were not far from land, used the boat to drag the bulging nets ashore.

All: When faced with permanent obstacles, rather than repeat what once worked, we can shift our perspective to other ways of well-being.

Leader: This is a Word of Hope for the people who long for it.

All: Thanks be to the Living Word.

– based on John 21:1-8

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

**Opening Hymn #23 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy
(New Century Hymnal, black)**

**1. There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in God's justice
which is more than liberty
There's no place where earthly sorrows
are more felt than in god's heaven
There's no place where earthly failings
have such kindly judgment given**

**2. For the love of God is broader
than the measures of our minds
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind
If our love were but more faithful,
we would gladly trust God's word
And our lives would show thanksgiving
for the goodness of our God.**

The Key to Peace

Know that Christ's healing presence is with us today, here to change our perspectives and lead us into abundance. Because of this, we can be honest about our lives, our struggles, and the things that keep us locked up.

This is the key to peace: as soon as truth is spoken and the desire for healing is known, Divine Love begins the process of resurrecting your life.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you can know healing.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you can know healing.

Let's sing our Easter Alleluia and pass the peace of Jesus Christ *[making sure to greet those worshiping remotely]*.

Halle, Halle
#236 Black Hymnal/New Century Hymnal

All (sung):
Halle, halle, halle-luya!
Halle, halle, halle-luya!
Halle, halle, halle-luya!
Halle-luya, halle-luya!

REPEAT

Please be seated.

Music Offering

8am Heritage Choir : I Sing the Almighty Power of God
A.C. Lovelace

10:30am High School Choir: He is Our King
David Crowder

AT 10:30 WORSHIP I invite the children forward as we sing again.

All (sung):
Halle, halle, halle-luya!
Halle, halle, halle-luya!
Halle, halle, halle-luya!
Halle-luya, halle-luya!

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.

Kids are invited to the Education Hour and Faith Formation for All Ages – 9:15-10:15am on Sundays, ages 3—grade 7.

Children will be in **Room 100** and will return before worship is over. If worship ends early, parents are welcome to meet their children in Room 100 on the first floor.

Notes on HEALING

All scripture translations from the NRSVUE.

Scripture *Mark 5:24-34*

So he went with him. And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. Now there was a woman who had been suffering from a flow of blood for twelve years. She had endured much under many physicians and had spent all that she had, and she was no better but rather grew worse. She had heard about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, for she said, "If I but touch his cloak, I will be made well." Immediately her flow of blood stopped, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my cloak?" And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, 'Who touched me?' " He looked all around to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."

Testimony to Healing: A Resurrection Story
Pastor Carrie

Responding to Healing

Prayers of the People
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.**

Opportunities to Live Resurrected

**NEWS ABOUT THE MINISTRY AND MISSION OF GOD'S CHURCH
AT UNION**



OFFERING

**Thank you for the many ways you give of yourself to God's
ministry and mission here at Union.**

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.



Vanco Mobile

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



Venmo

• **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

Open Our Eyes

Robert Cull

Blake Hoppes

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

***Offering Response**

Sung to the Tune I Love to Tell the Story

**ALL (sung): The Savior of our stories
has brought his peace to you;
now go and tell the story,
for others need it too.
To ev’ry one who’s hurting
ring out the gospel call;
proclaim that Christ is risen
and grants his peace to all.**

**I love to tell the story;
'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.**

***Benediction**

Whatever binds you, whatever locks you up,
whatever chronic pains or limitations keep you from living life
to the fullest,
whatever keeps you from changing perspective and fishing
on the other side of the boat
can be wiped clean with a healing salve...
... for we believe our stories can be rewritten each and every
day.
We know it isn't easy or quick, but let this be a vision of your
life resurrected.

And now, may you go into the world,
experiencing and bestowing healing in all the ways you dis-
cover you can,
for yourself, for others, for the world.
And may the God who created you to be whole,
the Christ who showed you the power of a change in per-
spective,
and the Spirit who is transforming your life even now,
be with you now and evermore.
Amen.

**ALL (Sung): Rise up in us and we will rise
From death into a newfound life:
From bondage freed, from harm released,
From illness healed, as one in peace.
When all is lost our hearts are warmed,
Our hope restored, our lives transformed.**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

***Closing Hymn #28 For the Beauty of the Earth**

**1) For the beauty of the earth, for the splendor of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies
God of all to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise**

**2) For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night
Hill and vale and tree and flower,
sun and moon and stars of light
God of all to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise**

**3) For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child
Friends on earth and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild
God of all to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise**

**4) For the good that love inspires,
for a world where none exclude
For a faith that never tires, and for every heart renewed
God of all to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise**

Postlude

Jesus Shall Reign

Tune: Duke Street, John Hatton

Blake Hoppes

Worship Theme ©www.worshipdesignstudio.com

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)	
Last Week:	
Calendar Year 2024 (Jan.-Mar.)	\$ 115,296.00
Calendar Year 2023 (Jan.-Mar.)	\$ 91,680.00
Change from Last Year	25.8%
Budget FY 2023-24 (July-Mar.)	\$ 323,840.00
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (July-Mar.)	\$ 322,733.00
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	-0.3%
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>	

Attendance Last Week	
8 AM	41
10:30 AM	84
Online Views	257
Breathe	12

2023 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Last Week:	\$0, 0lbs
Total YTD:	\$850, 2,725lbs

Presentations to the Glory of God

Giving thanks for our Women's Retreat- Pastor Kris

Good News Sponsor– for \$20 help us cover the costs of advertising on social media, mailings, and local papers.

Children's Bulletin sponsor– for \$8 cover the cost of bulletins for children.

Send to Union UCC through your offering envelope or online marked Spread the Good News or 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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