



**Resurrection Story: Liberated**  
**May 5, 2024**  
**8am and 10:30am Worship**  
**Confirmation Sunday**  
**Church Family Worship**

**GUESTS**, Welcome to our faith community. 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). 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.

**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 Michael Roth, 10:30am Dan Topp  
Ushers: 8am Phil Wehr, Ron Pope, Leoma Kern  
10:30 am Eric Minnich, Scott Nagle, Tami Wassum, Don Penrod, Jennifer Haley, Suzanne Schneider, Carolyn Seyler  
Greeters: Sally Saltzer, Devon and Rowan Kuharik  
Sound: Mike Baer

## **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**

Praise Him! Praise Him!

Tune: Joyful Song, Chester G. Allen

**Blake Hoppes**

### **Welcome**

### **The Collective Story of Resurrection**

Leader: This country is made up of so many who escaped to the “promised land” from oppressive regimes. Throughout history, people have had to flee situations of horror. Even within our country and in our own time, there are those who live with oppression and fear. We seek to widen our understanding of what we must do to continue to work for liberation on so many fronts.

# Rise Up in Us

Amanda Udis-Kessler

3 Rise up in us and we will rise from  
6 death in - to a new - found life: from bond - age freed, from  
9 harm re - leased, from ill - ness healed, as one in peace. When  
12 all is lost our hearts are warmed, our hope re - stored, our  
15 lives trans - formed. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -  
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Text and music © 2024 Amanda Udis-Kessler. All rights reserved.  
Email: [amanda@amandaudiskessler.com](mailto:amanda@amandaudiskessler.com) New hymns: [queersacredmusic.com](http://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: Jesus made a charcoal fire to make breakfast,  
and Jesus beckoned the disciples to bring some of their  
fresh-caught fish.

**ALL: Abundance is meant to be shared. Jesus shows us how  
to serve and care.**

Leader: Jesus said, "Come and have breakfast" giving  
bread and fish to each disciple.

**ALL: In our fear of scarcity, we sometimes are hesitant to  
share,  
but Jesus shows us how.**

Leader: After offering sustenance to the weary disciples, Jesus turned to Simon Peter and asked: “Do you love me?” Peter said, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said: “Feed my lambs.”

**ALL: Often we discover the love language of our faith by sharing with others.**

Leader: A second time, Jesus asked Peter, “Do you love me?” Peter said, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said: “Tend my sheep.”

**ALL: We can grow in faith by caring for others.**

Leader: A third time, Jesus asked Peter, “Do you love me?” Peter felt hurt at the repeated request and said, “Lord, you know everything, you know that I love you.” Jesus said: “Feed my sheep.”

**ALL: We are called to feed and tend to the needs of all people, especially those in need of liberation from hunger and oppression.**

Leader: Jesus reminded the disciples that we all will need help at times in our lives. Then, Jesus said, “Follow me.”

**All: We open our hearts and hands and resources to make better the circumstances of all people for living and thriving.**

Leader: This is a Word of Hope for the people who long for it.  
**All: Thanks be to the Living Word.**

– based on John 21:9-19

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

## **Opening Hymn**

**The Summons John L. Bell c. 1987 Iona Community**

**1. Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown, Will you let my name be  
known  
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?**

**2. Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or  
scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?**

**3. Will you let the blinded see, if I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,  
And admit to what I mean in you and you in me?**

**4. Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world  
around  
Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in  
me?**

**5. Lord, your summons echoes true if you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.  
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.**

## **The Key to Peace**

Know that Christ shows us how to love ourselves and others,  
ensuring that all are nourished and cared for. 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 liberation is known, Divine Love begins the process of resurrecting your life.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you can know liberation.  
**In the name of Jesus Christ, you can know liberation.**

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.**

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**

**Today is Church Family Worship. Children are invited to remain with their families during worship. If needed, the nursery is available for use across the hall from the sanctuary. Worship is livestreamed for viewing.**

**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.

**Music Offering Heritage & Horizon Choir**

Come to Jesus      Chris Rice  
Choral Setting by Mark Hayes

**Notes on Liberation**

*All scripture translations from the NRSVUE.*

**Scripture** *Psalm 146*

Praise the Lord!  
Praise the Lord, O my soul!  
I will praise the Lord as long as I live;  
    I will sing praises to my God all my life long.  
Do not put your trust in princes,  
    in mortals, in whom there is no help.  
When their breath departs, they return to the earth;  
    on that very day their plans perish.  
Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,  
    whose hope is in the Lord their God,  
who made heaven and earth,  
    the sea, and all that is in them;  
who keeps faith forever;

who executes justice for the oppressed;  
who gives food to the hungry.  
The Lord sets the prisoners free;  
the Lord opens the eyes of those who cannot see.  
The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;  
the Lord loves the righteous.  
The Lord watches over the strangers;  
the Lord upholds the orphan and the widow,  
but the way of the wicked the Lord brings to ruin.  
The Lord will reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, for all generations.  
Praise the Lord!

**Testimony to Liberation: A Resurrection Story**  
**Pastor Kayli**

**CONFIRMANDS ARE CALLED FORWARD TO AFFIRM THEIR FAITH**  
**STATEMENT OF FAITH by The Confirmation Class of 2024**

I believe God is the creator of all things.  
God is always with us and helps guide us through difficult times and forgives us for our sins. **(Grayson Christman)**  
I know Jesus loves me unconditionally. My faith has been rejuvenated through him. **(Madison Eckhart)**  
I think the Holy Spirit is the spirit of God and Jesus combined. The spirit heals people's brokenness and fills them with joy and courage. **(Kendall Miller)**  
The bible is meant to be used as a tool to help guide how we should live our lives. **(Grayson Christman)**  
I will live out my faith by giving back to others. Faith is more than a feeling; it is also doing through actions. **(Noah Roth)**  
I believe that prayer is the way to talk to God about the good and bad in your life **(Kendall Miller)**  
Every night I pray to God or whenever I want to and I know he is listening **(Jocelyn Kareha)**



Church is a structure that has become a safe place for me. It has filled empty holes through songs, volunteering and education. **(Madison Eckhart)**

Being a Christian means believing in God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit but also knowing that there is always someone listening. I will live out my faith by going to church whenever I can, being a member of this church, and to keep believing in God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. **(Jocelyn Kareha)**

## **THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION**

### **Invitation**

### **Questions**

### **Prayer of the Candidates**

○ God, my God, known to me in Jesus Christ, I give myself to you as your own, to love and serve you faithfully, all the days of my life. Amen.

### **Prayer of the Congregation (UNISON)**

**Almighty God, who in baptism received these your servants into the church, forgave their sins, and promised them eternal life, increase in them the gifts of you Holy Spirit**

**Grant them love for others, joy in serving you, peace in disagreement, patience in suffering, kindness toward all people, goodness in evil times, faithfulness in temptation, gentleness in the face of opposition, self-control in all things.**

**Thereby strengthen them for their ministry in the world; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

### **Act of Confirmation**

Confirmands will be blessed and prayed over by a pastor, parents, and God Guides.

They will also receive a cross and a certificate from the teaching team.

Parents and God-Guides are invited to come forward when your Confirmand is at the railing

**Prayer of Confirmation**

**Questions about Participation**

**Welcome (unison)**

**We promise you our continuing friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ**

**By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior. Amen.**

**Greeting of Christian Love**

Consistory Officer -Eric Minnich (Consistory President)

**Prayer**

**BENEDICTION**

**Responding to Liberation**

**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-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.)



Electronic Giving

• **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**

Day By Day      Oscar Ahnfeldt

**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 makes you feel backed into a corner,  
whatever prevents you from fully expressing your spirit  
can be wiped clean...

... 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,  
proclaiming liberty in all the ways you discover you can,  
for yourself, for others, for the world.  
And may the God who created you to be unrestrained in  
your joy  
and unabashed with your love for others,  
the Christ who showed you what liberation looks like,  
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**

**Here I Am Lord**

**I the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.  
I who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?**

**CHORUS**

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.**

**I the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.**

**I have wept for love of them. They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?**

**CHORUS**

**I the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?**

**CHORUS**

**Postlude**

What a Friend We Have in Jesus  
Joseph M. Scriven, Charles C. Converse  
**Blake Hoppes**

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# EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)	
Last Week:	\$12,752.00
Calendar Year 2024 (Jan.-Mar.)	\$ 115,296.00
Calendar Year 2023 (Jan.-Mar.)	\$ 91,680.00
Change from Last Year	<b>25.8%</b>
Budget FY 2023-24 (July-Mar.)	\$ 323,840.00
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (July-Mar.)	\$ 322,733.00
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	<b>-0.3%</b>
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>	

Attendance Last Week	
8 AM	36
10:30 AM	
Online Views	
Breathe	10

2024 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Last Week:	\$25, 0lbs
Total YTD:	\$875, 2,725lbs

## Presentations to the Glory of God

### Blessings on our Confirmands, Parents, and God Guides- 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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