



Easter
Sunday

Love Is My Religion
Sunday, April 12, 2020
Easter Sunday 10:30 Online



GUESTS, Welcome to worship. To learn more about us, please visit our website at www.unionucc.org or like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/unionneffs

If you would like us to follow up with you contact Pastor Kris at 610-767-6961, pastorkris@unionucc.org

Our next new member information session will be held on May 3 and 10. You will be welcomed as members in worship on Sunday, May 17. If you are interested in attending classes for new members let us know and we'd be glad to send you more information. Please contact Pastor Kris with any questions.

We believe in extravagant welcome. We believe in God's inclusive love. We start worship with a greeting that reflects that welcome and love.

Leader: No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey and on faith's journey

ALL: you are welcome here.

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C = Congregation L = Leader P = Pastor
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PRELUDE

Easter Song Anne Herring
Blake Hoppes



Directions for Communion: Everyone is welcome to this meal of love and grace.

Since we are worshipping virtually we invite you to take communion virtually.

Please find a cracker, piece of bread or something to represent the body of Christ. And please find some juice, wine or water to represent the blood of Christ. When we get to that part of the service, the pastors will bless the elements and bless us as we share in this meal together.

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

L No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey and faith's journey

C You are welcome here.

THE OPENING HYMN

GOLD HYMNAL #289 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Leader: Abby Hill

Trumpet: Alex Hill, Andy Hill, Abby Hill, Dylan Kuntz,
Mitchell Roth

Alto Sax: Garet Hill

Clarinet: Cameron Kuntz

Flute: Naomi Henninger, Leah Horvath

Cello: Gabe Horvath

**1 Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!**

**2 Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!**

**3 Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!**

CALL TO WORSHIP

① After the events of Holy Week, the disciples are devastated. They are in the midst of full-blown grief and disbelief. Into the heart of that grief came a stunning revelation—life had overcome death. Love had won out over violence. God's faithfulness would build them up once again. God's love will bind them together. Is this possible in our lives? Today's worship will say, "Yes, it can! Come and see! Live and love! This is the heart of the matter!" Christ is risen! Repeat after me: "Christ is risen indeed!"

☉ **Christ is risen indeed!**

① One of the scriptures for this year's Easter selections is from the book of Jeremiah. The people of Jeremiah's time were going through trauma. Jeremiah was frustrated with their behavior for many chapters but ultimately his tone changes and he prophesies God's promise that they will be built back up from the devastation they have endured. They

will again feel joy and they will begin to plan for the future again, planting vineyards on the hills even in the midst of exile and pain. Here these words of promise:

*At that time, declares the Lord,
I will be the God of all the families of Israel,
and they will be my people.*

*The Lord proclaims:
The people who survived the sword
found grace in the wilderness.
As Israel searched for a place of rest,*

*the Lord appeared to them from a distance:
I have loved you with a love that lasts forever.
And so with unfailing love,
I have drawn you to myself.*

*Again, I will build you up,
and you will be rebuilt, virgin Israel.
Again, you will play your tambourines
and dance with joy.*

*Again, you will plant vineyards
on the hills of Samaria;
farmers will plant and then enjoy the harvests.*

*The time will come when
the watchmen shout from
the highlands of Ephraim:
“Get ready! We’re going up to Zion
to the Lord our God!” - Jeremiah 31: 1-6*

A Prayer (based on Jeremiah 31)

① Let's pray.

God of new dawns, new awakenings, new life,
we hear your voice this morning saying,

“I have loved you, my people, with an everlasting love.
With unfailing love I have drawn you to myself.”

On this Easter day, you tell us we will be rebuilt and made new.

In gratitude we hear you, Living God, and we believe you.
And so we will celebrate the gift of new life in Christ,
even in the midst of fear.

You give us eyes to see through tears,
songs to sing with throats tight with emotion.

We know you help the weary rise up out of the ashes.

Give us the courage to be your light and hope in this world
today.

Amen.

SIGNS OF LOVE

Please send us pictures of you and your friends or family with their hands in the heart position. We'd like to show them during a video to this song each week so that we can see each other, give thanks for each other, and pray for each other.

GOLD HYMNAL #677 They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love
St. Brendan's/Peter Scholtes

**1. We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
And we pray that all unity will one day be restored.**

**CHORUS: And they'll know we are Christians by our love,
by our love, yes, they'll know we are Christians by our
love.**

**2. We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in
hand; We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in
hand; And together we'll spread the news that God is in
our land.**

CHORUS

**3. We Will work with each other, we will work side by
side; We will work with each other, we will work side by
side; And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each
one's pride.**

CHORUS

“Worry Stone” Invitation

LIn the account of the resurrection in the Gospel of Matthew, after the stone is rolled away from the tomb, the angel sits on the stone and gives the women this message, “Don’t be afraid.” Throughout the Season of Easter, we invite you to use a “worry stone,” which is a stone you carry about with you to rub when you are feeling anxious or worried. We encourage you to find a stone and paint or draw a heart on it. It will remind you of this angel’s message which Jesus then repeats, “Do not be afraid.” Hear this wonderful message now from Matthew 28:1-10:

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the tomb. Look, there was a great earthquake, for an angel from the Lord came down from heaven. Coming to the stone, he rolled it away and sat on it. Now his face was like lightning and his clothes as white as snow. The guards were so terrified of him that they shook with fear and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, “Don’t be afraid. I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He isn’t here, because he’s been raised from the dead, just as he said. Come, see the place where they laid him. Now hurry, go and tell his disciples, ‘He’s been raised from the dead. He’s going on ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there.’ I’ve given the message to you.”

With great fear and excitement, they hurried away from the tomb and ran to tell his disciples. But Jesus met them and greeted them. They came and grabbed his feet and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, “Don’t be afraid. Go and tell my brothers that I am going into Galilee. They will see me there.”

MESSAGE

Love Is My Religion

Rev. Kris P. Snyder-Samuelson

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

MUSIC OFFERING

Andante et Allegro J. Guy Ropartz
Jacob Roth, Piano; Mitchell Roth, Trumpet

Donate to God's Mission and Ministry at UNION UCC

OFFERING ENVELOPES you can mail your envelopes to the church. The church address is on one side, just add a stamp.

ELECTRONIC GIVING This is a great time to try e-giving!

Choose a weekly, semi-monthly or monthly donation to be transferred electronically. Fill out the form at <http://www.unionucc.org/egive.pdf> and return it to the church office. financialmanager@unionucc.org

DONATE ONLINE with your Credit or Debit Card

Go to <http://www.unionucc.org/resources/giving-and-sponsorship/ways-to-give/> and click **GIVE ONLINE**.

AMAZON SMILE Donate to Union UCC, Neffs (Search by zip code 18065) while you shop at Amazon. <https://smile.amazon.com>.

EASTER MISSION OFFERING We are collecting financial donations now through Easter Sunday for the follow two missions:

The Rescue Mission in Allentown. Provides critically-needed goods and services to homeless and impoverished men.

The American Cancer Society of the Lehigh Valley is on a mission to free the world from cancer.

You can support this effort by making a check to Union UCC and placing it in your EASTER MISSION offering envelope in your packet or by placing it in any envelope with Easter Mission on the memo line and placing it in the mail or by donating online with the same note .

HOLY COMMUNION

L We have gathered with food to nourish our bodies even as we nourish our souls together in worship. This is very much what our spiritual ancestors did as they gathered in those early days in houses. They would bring what they had and share with each other. It's no wonder that "pot luck" is in our Christian DNA! Let us pray. I invite you to repeat after me:

Holy Peace-Giver,
We gather in your name...
invited by Jesus...
bound together with your Spirit...
in union with each other...

Feed our bodies and our spirits...
with your comforting presence...
so that we might be your comfort to others...

Bless this food...
and break open our hearts...
Bless this drink...
and pour out your love...
Amen...

L At his last supper with his friends and disciples, Jesus took bread, gave thanks to God, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to God, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Drink from this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me."

SHARING THE BREAD and CUP

LThe bread of life. The cup of the new covenant. We receive both as we remember our friend and family member, and Savior Jesus the Christ. The gifts of God for the people of God. Take and eat, take and drink.

MUSIC OFFERING

How Can It Be Paul Mabury, Jason Ingram &
Jeff Johnson
Abby Kern with Blake Hoppes

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and 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 and ever. Amen.**

Invitation to the Easter Season Series

LFriends, you may not realize that Easter is not just a day. Easter is a season of eight Sundays that last from today until Pentecost Sunday, a time when we celebrate the Spirit of Christ in the church as the presence of Jesus' work ongoing in the world. During the Easter Season, we will continue to hear more about Jesus' message of what is truly the "heart of the matter" in our lives. We will gather each week around a meal. You can make breakfast and have it ready on your tables just in time for worship. We will incorporate eating together as we "break bread" and break open the Word of God and break open our lives with each other. We will be incorporating all ages into the service and so this will be a great way to bring everyone together to share it with loved ones who may be with you in your homes. But we would also love for you to invite anyone that you really miss and wish was at your tables with you such as loved ones—families or

friends— across the miles. We'll be gathering online as we have been, you can find us on our website, Facebook page, and youtube channel on Sundays at 10:30am. Or watch anytime after that during the week.

Let's close with this prayer that we will repeat every week of the Easter Season. Repeat after me:

We know Jesus is present among us...

even in this very home...

We will not let fear be louder than love...

but with glad hearts and rejoicing souls...

we will sing God's praise...

for we are Easter People...!

Benediction

(based on Psalm 16)

L As we close this time together, remember:
God is always with you. No matter what you face,
no matter what trials or hardships come your way,
God is right beside you, raising your very life from death,
guiding and directing your path.

So, acknowledge your fear and your worry
and know it is as true and holy as any feeling,
including joy and hope and love.

Take heart, my friends! This is the heart of the matter.

Let the people say, **Amen!**

GOLD HYMNAL #297 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today
Jacob Roth, Organ

**1 Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia!
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
who did once upon the cross Alleluia!
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!**

**2 Hymns of praise then let us sing Alleluia!
unto Christ our heav'nly King, Alleluia!
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!**

**3 But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
now above the sky he's King, Alleluia!
where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!**

**4 Sing we to our God above Alleluia!
praise eternal as his love; Alleluia!
praise him, all ye heav'nly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!**

Silent Prayer

POSTLUDE

He Lives Instrumental Group

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