



Straight from the Heart
Sunday, April 26, 2020
10:30 Online
Healing Service



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 September 13 and 20 You will be welcomed as members in worship on Sunday, September 27. 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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PRELUDE

The Heart of Worship

Matt Redman



WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ① No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey and faith's journey
- ② You are welcome here.

THE OPENING HYMN

BLACK HYMNAL #303 Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing

1. Rejoice, give thanks and sing; your Sovereign God adore!
For Christ has robbed death's sting and triumphs evermore.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice again I say,
rejoice.
2. Our Savior Jesus reigns, the God of truth and love;
The Lamb who purged our stains is crowned with power
above.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice again I say,
rejoice.

3. Christ Jesus can not fail to rule both earth and heaven;
The keys of death and hell are to the Savior given.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say,
rejoice.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Ⓛ We continue with our Easter Season because Easter isn't just one day. It is the message of God's desire for us to live fully every day. The early church practiced their hope in this way:

“Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people.” (Acts 2: 46-47a)

Ⓛ We create a “temple” of worship in our hearts that connects us across boundaries, distance and time. But as we share this worship, we will stay connected. At the “heart of the matter,” we are connected through the Spirit that makes us one in love.

“Worry Stone” or “Heart Stone” Invitation

Ⓛ In 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.”

If you have your stone, set it out now. Or look for one this week for next Sunday.

A Prayer

Ⓛ We are going to center our hearts as one to begin. Let's take a deep breath together .

I invite you to place your hand on your heart and let's lightly tap together in a slow heartbeat rhythm

Holy Living God,
Heartbeat of Creation,
help us to take this time to center on you,
for you made us,
you gave us life,
and you continue to be with us
every moment...
every breath...
every step.

Hear this assurance from God:

Be still, O heart, you're not alone,
your beat is shared with me.
Come now, and calm, and center here,
you're mine, secure and free.

Let's take another deep breath, making sure our shoulders and any tension we feel in our bodies is letting go with the breath. Let's take another one.

Let us pick up our heart stone, sometimes called a "worry stone," and let our touch on its surface remind us that God's touch is within us, between us, and around us.
As close and real as this object is in our hands right now, is how close Love is to us always.
Let us imagine letting go of our worries for now into God's heart of love.

We offer a prayer song of letting go:

Into your care, we offer now,
our worries, fears and strife.
We turn to you and know you're near—
Your light, our love and life.

If you have a candle you might like to light it now and set your heart worry stone next to it.

SCRIPTURE

① Here is how the story of Jesus' surprise visit on the road and at the dinner happened. Imagine yourself walking down the road and a stranger comes along...

On that same day, two disciples were traveling to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking to each other about everything that had happened. While they were discussing these things, Jesus himself arrived and joined them on their journey. They were prevented from recognizing him.

He said to them, "What are you talking about as you walk along?" They stopped, their faces downcast.

The one named Cleopas replied, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who is unaware of the things that have taken place there over the last few days?"

He said to them, "What things?"

They said to him, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth. Because of his powerful deeds and words, he was recognized by God and all the people as a prophet. But our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him. We had hoped he was the one who would redeem Israel. All these things happened three days ago. But there's more: Some women from our group have left us stunned. They went to the tomb early this morning and didn't find his body. They came to us saying that they had even seen a vision of angels who told them he is alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women said. They didn't see him."

Then Jesus said to them, "You foolish people! Your dull minds keep you from believing all that the

prophets talked about. Wasn't it necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then he interpreted for them the things written about himself in all the scriptures, starting with Moses and going through all the Prophets.

When they came to Emmaus, he acted as if he was going on ahead. But they urged him, saying, "Stay with us. It's nearly evening, and the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. After he took his seat at the table with them, he took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he disappeared from their sight. They said to each other, "Weren't our hearts on fire when he spoke to us along the road and when he explained the scriptures for us?"

They got up right then and returned to Jerusalem. They found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying to each other, "The Lord really has risen! He appeared to Simon!" Then the two disciples described what had happened along the road and how Jesus was made known to them as he broke the bread. - Luke 24:13-35

LAfter Christ was no longer with his disciples in the flesh, several letters began to circulate, making the rounds to the early Christian communities. This one is from a letter called "First Peter" that is recorded in our New Testament. It reminds people that the story of Jesus is about new birth for all people, and we are to be seeds of God's life-giving love.

Christ was chosen before the creation of the world, but was only revealed at the end of time. This was done for you, who through Christ are faithful to the God who raised him from the dead and gave him glory. So now, your faith and hope should rest in God.

As you set yourselves apart by your obedience to the truth so that you might have genuine affection for your fellow believers, love each other deeply and earnestly. Do this because you have been given new birth—not from the type of seed that decays but from seed that doesn't. This seed is God's life-giving and enduring word.

L Jesus 'table ministry was a preeminent way that he showed and shared a depth of love unseen in his time. He ate and spent time with those considered unworthy of his attention. Even in his post-resurrection appearances, it was in the breaking of bread that he was "recognized"—perhaps because so many times in his ministry, it was at tables that he invited people to open up and share "straight from the heart"—getting right to the heart of the matter. As we gather this day, we remember that, at the heart, his message was unconditional love. To offer ourselves "straight from the heart" is the seed he planted in us, and this is the growth we must continue to nurture.

MESSAGE

Straight from the Heart

Pastor Kayli Freeman

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. 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

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

MUSIC OFFERING

City On Our Knees
and Cary Barlowe
Jason Klinger

Toby McKeehan, James Moore

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>.

INVITATION TO THE EASTER SEASON SERIES

📍 Friends, 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 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 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.

TIME OF HEALING

📍 Today we were supposed to have a time to pray with the pastor and receive a blessing. We know that there are many of you out there who have prayers that are on your heart, and we hear you and are with you. We invite everyone to be a part of this portion of the service as we all receive healings and blessings.

① Jesus said: Ask, and it will be given;
seek and you will find;
knock and it will be opened to you.

① For everyone who asks receives,
and those who seek find,
and to each who knocks, it will be opened.

① Friends in Christ,
God knows our needs before we ask
and in our asking prepares us to receive the gift of grace.
God ministers to us not as one who is absent
but as one who is present
in human hands, voices and lives full of the Holy Spirit.
Let us open our lives to God's healing presence among us,
working through us,
even though we might not understand it.
Let us resound with the leper's faith:

① If you choose, you can make me whole.

① Christ responds: "I do choose!"

Prayer for Wholeness

① My Lord God,
I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
Nor do I really know myself,
and the fact that I think I am following your will does not
mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the
desire to please you does in fact please you.
And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.
And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right
road, though I may know nothing about it.
Therefore I will trust you always
though I may seem lost and in the shadow of death.
I will not fear, for you are ever with me,

and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.
Amen.

Thomas Merton, *Thoughts in Solitude* page 83, © 1988
Merton Legacy Trust

Benediction
(based on Psalm 16)

❶ 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!

POSTLUDE

There is a Balm in Gilead

Spiritual

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