



Sunday, April 19, 2020
10:30 Online
Red Nose Easter Joy Sunday



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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C = Congregation L = Leader P = Pastor
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PRELUDE

Let There Be Praise

Dick & Melodie Tunney



WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome Tootsee the Clown!

Tootsee the Clown and Friends 610-262-0677

Providing Family Fun Entertainment for over 20 years.

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

Hallelu, Hallelu

SIT: Hallelu, hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah;

STAND: Praise ye the Lord!

SIT: Hallelu, hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah;

STAND: Praise ye the Lord!

STAND: Praise ye the Lord, SIT: Hallelujah;

STAND: Praise ye the Lord, SIT: Hallelujah;

STAND: Praise ye the Lord, SIT: Hallelujah;

STAND: Praise ye the Lord.

CALL TO WORSHIP

🕒 Easter is not just a day. It is a whole season of time when we remember that Jesus' Spirit lives on in each one of us. In the Bible, the early church was described 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)

So over the next few weeks, we are following our ancestor's traditions. We are creating a “temple” of worship in our hearts whether we can be physically together or not. By sharing in words and music and breathing and eating and moving together, we will stay connected. The earliest Christians worshiped in their homes before they had churches, and so will we, until we can meet again in our sanctuaries. Because 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

LWe 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 This week we read a passage from the account of the Acts of the Apostles that is a wonderful encouragement and reminder that death never is the last word:

God raised him up! God freed him from death's
dreadful grip, since it was impossible for death to
hang on to him. David says about him,
I foresaw that the Lord was always with me;
because he is at my right hand I won't be shaken.
Therefore, my heart was glad
and my tongue rejoiced.
Moreover, my body will live in hope,
because you won't abandon me to the grave,
nor permit your holy one to experience decay.
You have shown me the paths of life;
your presence will fill me with happiness. Acts 2:
24-28

The "David" referenced in this passage is the Psalmist, and the quote is from the 16th Psalm:

You, Lord, are my portion, my cup;
you control my destiny.
The property lines have fallen beautifully for me;
yes, I have a lovely home.
I will bless the Lord who advises me;
even at night I am instructed
in the depths of my mind.
I always put the Lord in front of me;
I will not stumble because God is on my right side.
That's why my heart celebrates and my mood is joyous;
yes, my whole body will rest in safety
because you won't abandon my life to the grave;
you won't let your faithful follower see the pit.
You teach me the way of life.

In your presence is total celebration.
Beautiful things are always in your right hand. *Psalm*
16: 5-11

It may feel odd to have moved into the season of Easter, a season of celebration, in the midst of these difficult times. Perhaps it is an opportunity to really take into consideration that, at the heart of our Christian faith, we are called to live our lives in the belief that death is not the final word. This is why Christians are called “Easter People.” The tomb becomes the womb of new life. What would we do differently if we really believed that we are loved beyond all endings? That there was nothing to fear?

Today we imagine Jesus at our “right hand,” counseling us throughout our days, with these words, “Peace be with you.” This is what he did when he appeared to the disciples after his resurrection. They were in a locked room, fearing for their lives. Sound familiar? Let’s let Jesus speak these words to us as well. Here is how the story from the Gospel of John goes:

“It was still the first day of the week. That evening, while the disciples were behind closed doors because they were afraid... Jesus came and stood among them. He said, “Peace be with you.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they were filled with joy. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As [Abba, God] sent me, so I am sending you.” Then he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” - John 20: 19-22

Two things Jesus wanted the disciples to have in their moment of fear was peace and the Spirit. “Taking a breather” is one way to see what Jesus offered to them. He wanted them to take his breath so that they would feel his spirit living in them.

A TIME WITH TOOTSEE

I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy
Public Domain

George Willis Cooke,

1. I've got that joy joy joy joy
Down in my heart
Down in my heart
Down in my heart
I've got that joy joy joy joy
Down in my heart
Down in my heart to stay

CHORUS:

And I'm so happy
So very happy
I've got the love of Jesus in my heart
And I'm so happy so very happy
I've got the love of Jesus in my heart

2. I've got the peace that passes understanding
Down in my heart
Down in my heart
Down in my heart
I've got the peace that passes understanding
Down in my heart
Down in my heart to stay

CHORUS

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

Good Christians All Rejoice and Sing Cyril Alington
Vocalists: Emily Bachl, Todd Bachl, Ronda Gerry, William Marshall

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.

PRAISE GOD! With an Easter Dance Party

It is time to praise God and raise our endorphin levels to improve our heart-health, both physically and spiritually! So whether your "dance" is in your bed, in your chair, or all over the living room, it's time for the Easter Season Dance Party! If you are going to dance standing up, go ahead and get ready. And let's start with this affirmation, repeating 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...!

Closing Hymn Dance Party Tootsee leads us in our Dance Party!

Get this Party Started
Written by Chrystina L. Fincher, Reggie Joiner
Published by FamilyWise Music
Recorded by Kid Jam
CCLI# 5317147

**Let's get this get this get party started
Get it get it started right now
Come on just dance and sing with us
We'll show you how**

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!

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