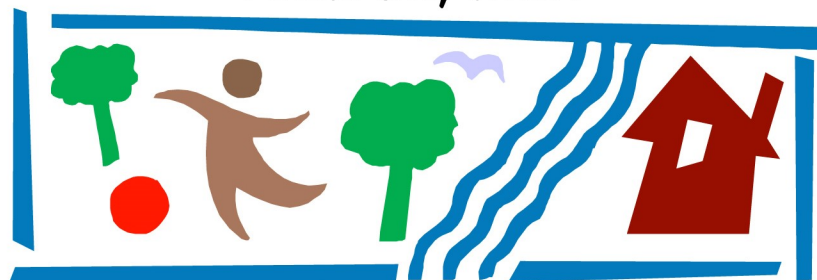




**See what love the
Father has given us,
that we should be
called children of God.**

1 John 3:1, NRSV



Sunday May 17, 2020

10:30 online worship

Heart of the Matter: Kept In Our Hearts

Celebrating Sunday School and Children's Church



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
.....

PRELUDE

Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen / All Day, All Night
Traditional Spirituals



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

GOLD HYMNAL #2 How Great Thou Art

1. O Lord my God,
When I in awesome wonder
Consider all
The works Thy Hand hath made,
I see the stars,
I hear the mighty thunder,

Thy pow'r throughout
The universe displayed,

CHORUS

Then sings my soul,
My Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art!
How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul,
My Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art!
How great Thou art!

2. When through the woods
And forest glades I wander
I hear the birds
Sing sweetly in the trees,
When I look down
From lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook
And feel the gentle breeze,

CHORUS

3. When Christ shall come,
With shouts of acclamation,
And take me home,
What joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow
In humble adoration
And there proclaim,
"My God, how great Thou art!"

CHORUS

CALL TO WORSHIP

① We continue with our Easter Season because Easter isn't just one day. This week we are invited to keep Jesus' commandments—to love one another is to keep each other in our hearts. Every week we remind ourselves why we gather. We are forming a habit of spending time together,

breaking bread together, praising God together and having goodwill for all the people. In the account of the early church, they did just that:

“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.

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.

Let’s light our candles now and set our heart worry stones next to it.

SCRIPTURE

L The resurrected Jesus tells his disciples that the Spirit will be with them when he is gone.

“If you love me and obey the command I give you, I will ask the One who sent me to give you another [Companion], another Helper to be with you always—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot accept since the world neither sees nor recognizes... but you can recognize the Spirit because the Spirit remains with you and will be within you.

I won’t leave you orphaned; I will come back to you. A little while now and the world will see no more; but you’ll see me; because I live, and you will live as well. On that day you’ll know that I am in God, and you are in me, and I am in you.

Those who obey my commandments are the ones who love me, and those who love me will be loved by Abba God. I, too, will love them and will reveal myself to them.” - John 14: 15-21 (Inclusive Bible translation)

Doing the “right thing” is something we try hard to do. Sometimes doing the right thing is difficult and means that we make sacrifices to make sure we do not harm others. We do it because love is the commandment we live by. In this excerpt from an early church letter, we hear the apostle encourage the people to always be ready to share from their hearts about the source of hope that is in them—Jesus Christ.

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. - 1 Peter 3:13-16a

How do we “sanctify Christ as Lord” in our hearts? To “sanctify” something is to set it apart as holy. Holiness resides within each one of us. It calls us to see holiness in others. It calls us to do the right thing in the name of Love, even when the right thing isn’t easy. Sometimes the right thing, and the hardest thing, is to follow the commandment to love our neighbor as ourselves. We often focus about loving our neighbor, but we also must hear the second part... love ourselves. The Spirit is in us, Jesus says, and to love ourselves is to love God, to love the Jesus in each of us, and to love the Spirit that is our Companion and Helper.

Giving Thanks for Sunday School and Children’s Church with Kathy Bonsell

Music Offering

Partita No. 2 in D Minor, Allemande J.S. Bach
Brittany Gelb, violin

MESSAGE

Kept In Our Hearts Rev. Kris Snyder-Samuelson

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and LORD'S PRAYER

“Worry Stone” or “Heart Stone” Invitation

1 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.”

**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

Mission Moment:

One of our young adults, **Nate Kern**, is training for a triathlon in July in memory of his friend **Kyle Burkey** who died by suicide. Please show your support by cheering him on and praying for him as he trains. If you are able to make a financial donation here's the information:

Donations to the Jed foundation can be made in our effort at donate.jedfoundation.org/fundraiser/2727444

Donations for the KB Memorial Scholarship Fund can be made at gofundme.com/f/iron-mind-fund

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

MUSIC OFFERING

As the Deer

Martin Nystrom

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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.

Please invite anyone that you really miss and wish was with you such as loved ones—families or friends— to join us on Sundays. 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 .

Benediction

(based on Psalm 16)

🕒 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!

HYMN God Will See Us Through
 Music by Emma Ceurvels, Words by Bryan Sirchio
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D G D G D G D A

In times of bro-ken-ness, in ev-'ry wil-der-ness, God has seen us through.

Em A D G D G A D

5

Times when our strength was gone, some-how we car-ried on, God has seen us through. Look be-

G D A Em A D G D/F#Em D A

9

hind and see through-out his - to - ry, God has ne - ver let us down. Lean a -

G D A Em A D G A D

13

head and trust God is guid - ing us, God is with us here right now. God will

Em A G D Em A G D

17

see me through, God will see you through, God will see us through some - how. Step by

Em A D D/F# G Em D/F# Em7 A D

21

step we'll be, gi-ven all we need, God will see us through this now.

POSTLUDE

Intermezzo in A Major, Op. 118, No. 2 Johannes Brahms

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