

A photograph of a historical black iron cannon mounted on a wooden carriage, positioned in a cemetery. The cannon is surrounded by several American flags on wooden posts. The background is filled with green trees and numerous gravestones. The image has a diagonal split, with the top-left and bottom-right corners being white.

Memorial Day

Remembering Those
Who Gave Their Lives

Sunday May 24, 2020
Heart of the Matter: Open the Eyes of My Heart
Memorial Day 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.

CCLI LICENSE # 1523377 / STREAMING # 20407732

ONE LICENSE #A714125 / PERMISSION TO PODCAST/STREAM THE MUSIC IN THIS SERVICE OBTAINED FROM *ONE LICENSE*, LICENSE #A714125

.....
C = Congregation **L** = Leader **P** = Pastor
.....

PRELUDE

The Battle Hymn of the Republic

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

Sax: Garet Hill

Flute: Leah Horvath, Naomi Henninger

Cello: Gabe Horvath

Director: Abby Hill



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 #690 America the Beautiful
Led by instrumental ensemble

1. Oh, beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties

Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea.

2. Oh, beautiful for pilgrim feet,
Whose stern, impassioned stress
A thoroughfare of freedom beat
Across the wilderness!

America! America!
God mend thine ev'ry flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control,
Thy liberty in law.

3. Oh, beautiful for heroes proved
In liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved,
And mercy more than life!

America! America!
May God thy gold refine,
Till all success be nobleness,
And ev'ry gain divine.

CALL TO WORSHIP

① We have been celebrating Easter for an entire season and next week, Pentecost, is the last week of the Easter Season. But just like Jesus has been reminding his disciples since the resurrection, this is not the end of his presence with the world, but the beginning of how we will carry his heart within ours. And so it is. As we gather together today, and every time that we gather together—physically, virtually, in small groups or simply together in our memory of one another, Christ is still with us:

“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.

If you have a candle you can light it now and set your heart
worry stones next to it.

SCRIPTURE and MESSAGE

Open the Eyes of My Heart

Rev. Kris Snyder-Samuels

🕒 Today we commemorate the moment when the disciples witnessed Jesus' leaving this physical world. He had spent some quality time with them, helping them understand more about their faith and the continued mission that they must now carry on in the world. He asked them to encourage people to a change of heart—to believe in hope and life and love that was his message on earth. As we often do when we take our leave from someone we love, Jesus blessed his followers.

Jesus said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the Law from Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures. He said to them, “This is what is written: the Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and a change of heart and life for the forgiveness of sins must be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. Look, I’m sending to you what my [Abba, God] promised, but you are to stay in the city until you have been furnished with heavenly power.”

He led them out as far as Bethany, where he lifted his hands and blessed them. As he blessed them, he left them and was taken up to heaven. They worshipped

him and returned to Jerusalem overwhelmed with joy.
And they were continuously in the temple praising God.
- Luke 24: 44-53

We have been reading some of the apostle's letters that circulated among the early churches. They read these letters as they gathered for meals. Here is an excerpt from a letter sent to an early Christian community. We can imagine it being written for us, as a community that needs prayers, that needs a spirit of wisdom.

Since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, this is the reason that I don't stop giving thanks to God for you when I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Sovereign of glory, will give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation that makes God known to you. I pray that the eyes of your heart will have enough light to see what is the hope of God's call, what is the richness of God's glorious inheritance among believers, and what is the overwhelming greatness of God's power that is working among us believers. This power is conferred by the energy of God's powerful strength. God's power was at work in Christ when God raised him from the dead and sat him at God's right side in the heavens, far above every ruler and authority and power and angelic power, any power that might be named not only now but in the future. God put everything under Christ's feet and made him head of everything in the church, which is his body. His body, the church, is the fullness of Christ, who fills everything in every way. - Ephesians 1: 15-23

To be the "body of Christ" as the church is to see the world through the eyes of Jesus—to see through the eyes of love. As Christ's body here on earth, we try to create the same conditions of love that he did while he was here on earth. We hope that "the eyes of our hearts" can be continually opened, as the disciples' were that day of Jesus' ascension, so that

we can be the best representation of his love here on earth. Perhaps we can see “ascension” with Christ as an “elevation” or “heightening” of our gratitude and of our commitment to do good in the world.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and LORD’S PRAYER

“Worry Stone” or “Heart Stone” Invitation

L 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.”

Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord Paul Baloche

**Open the eyes of my heart, Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You
I want to see You**

**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

A TRIBUTE TO THOSE WHO SERVED

The congregation has been collecting names of those who died during military service. We remember all who served and who currently serve, but on Memorial Day, we especially remember those who died in military service and whose names are listed here:

PVT Larry W. Bachman, U.S. Army
Ensign Vernon G. Kern, U.S. Navy
W-O David P. Kuhns, U.S. Army-Air Force
SP4 Larry R. Lalan, U.S. Army
Richard Wehr, U.S. Army

All unknown soldiers who gave their lives in service.

PRAYER FOR MEMORIAL DAY Maren C. Tirabassi

LWe remember that Memorial Day began when Confederate war widows decorated the far-from-home graves of Union soldiers.

C**We remember – and pray for those who grieve on all sides of a conflict.**

LWe remember that Memorial Day also began at Charleston’s Washington Race Course when newly freed slaves honored prisoners of war.

C**We remember – and pray for people everywhere who are seeking freedom or living with the loss of freedom.**

LWe remember that May 30 was chosen for Memorial Day because it was one day that did not commemorate a particular battle.

C**We remember — and pray for a time when every day is an anniversary of peace.**

LWe remember ANZAC Day, when Australians and New Zealanders memorialize not only those in combat, but nurses, stretcher bearers, conscientious objectors, and those who bear home front burdens.

C**We remember – and pray to be aware of the gifts of many in our common causes.**

LWe remember Christmas Eve truces and paper cranes, amnesties and poppies, folded flags and the desperate need of veterans for gratitude made real in support.

C**We remember — and pray for a memorializing, not confined to a holiday but alive in the spirits of young and old, enlisted and civilian, brand new Americans and those with deep hometown-roots, people of every faith, no faith and people willing to leave their politics outside the door in order to embrace everyone. God, be with us as we remember. Amen.**

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

MUSIC OFFERING

Amazing Grace John Newton
Paisley Dojak , Recorder

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.

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 GOLD HYMNAL #695 My Country 'Tis of Thee
Led by Instrumental Ensemble

1. My country, 'tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty,
Of thee I sing;
Land where my fathers died,
Land of the pilgrims' pride,
From ev'ry mountainside
Let freedom ring!

2. My native country, thee,
Land of the noble free,
Thy name I love;
I love thy rocks and rills,
Thy woods and templed hills;
My heart with rapture thrills,
Like that above.

3. Let music swell the breeze,
And ring from all the trees
Sweet freedom's song;
Let mortal tongues awake;
Let all that breathe partake;
Let rocks their silence break,
The sound prolong.

POSTLUDE

TAPS Daniel Butterfield
Andy Hill, Trumpet

Liturgy and Design © 2019 worshipdesignstudio.com,
adapted by permission.