



**Hearts Overflowing
Confirmation Sunday
Acolyte Recognition
Sunday, May 3, 2020, 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 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
Majesty

Jack Hayford Arr. Bruce Greer)



Thanks to our 2019-2020 acolytes! Raegan Haley, Parker Haydt, Payge Haydt, Garret Hill, Emma Milander, Hannah Minnich, Ryleigh Minnich, Zane Roth. We will celebrate and honor you when we can be back together. You will also receive your gift Bible that will be helpful for Confirmation next year. A big thank you to Susan Glosan and Julie Wehr for their dedication in organizing and training our acolytes

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

The Summons John L. Bell c. 1987 Iona Community

1. Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?

Will you let my love be shown, Will you let my name be known

Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

2. Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?

Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

3. Will you let the blinded see, if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
And admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

4. Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around

Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

5. Lord, your summons echoes true if you but call my name.

Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.

In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.

Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

CALL TO WORSHIP

① 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)

L 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

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.”

Today we place our worry stones in a full glass of water. This glass of water filled to the brim symbolizes the state of grace and love that is always and already what God gives to us. When we drop our worry and grief into it, we will see the love spill over. Placing our feelings and trust into God’s love helps us to pour out love all around us, making that love available to everyone. There is always enough to go around

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

① Jesus used the metaphor of a shepherd several times in his ministry. We will hear a song using the most famous instance from Psalm 23 later in our worship. In this passage from the Gospel of John, the sheep know that the Shepherd really cares about them and offers what they need—good, abundant, green pastures to eat in. They recognize this Shepherd who takes care of them as they hear his voice.

RI assure you that whoever doesn't enter into the sheep pen through the gate but climbs over the wall is a thief and an outlaw. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The guard at the gate opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. Whenever he has gathered all of his sheep, he goes before them and they follow him, because they know his voice. They won't follow a stranger but will run away because they don't know the stranger's voice." Those who heard Jesus use this analogy didn't understand what he was saying.

So Jesus spoke again, "I assure you that I am the gate of the sheep. All who came before me were thieves and outlaws, but the sheep didn't listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief enters only to steal, kill, and destroy. I came so that they could have life—indeed, so that they could live life to the fullest. -
John 10: 1-10

LThere are so many ways to live life to the fullest right now—or, as another version of the scripture calls it—"living life abundantly." Being together, either physically or virtually, is one important way for us in this moment. Perhaps we can keep up some of our "connection habits" we have exercised well beyond our time of isolation. This next scripture is an extended version of our theme scripture for our Easter Season series and shows us the value the early Christians, some of whom had to gather in secret and isolation, were supporting one another "abundantly."

RThe believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the community, to their shared meals, and to their prayers. A sense of awe came over everyone. God performed many wonders and signs through the apostles. All the believers were united and shared everything. They would sell pieces of property and possessions and distribute the proceeds to everyone who needed them. Every day, they met together in the temple and ate in their homes. They shared food with gladness and simplicity. They praised God

and demonstrated God's goodness to everyone. The Lord added daily to the community those who were being saved. - Acts 2: 42-47

LIn these two scriptures we see the desire of God for us to be taken care of, for us to live to the fullest, and for us to support one another in having abundant life and community, food and gladness. The "thief" in the first passage could be anything that robs us of those things. Sometimes the sacrifices we have endured because of our attempts to slow this virus can feel as if we've been "robbed" of our well-being. But we can also turn that around and see that these sacrifices are how we share goodwill and well-being with one another. Our hearts overflow with the grace and guidance we know from the Shepherd and we want that goodness for everyone. Glad and generous hearts overflow with love in so many ways.

MESSAGE

Hearts Overflowing (for our confirmands)

Pastor Kayli Freeman

Special Message from Karen Nuschke and Tina Jarrett

MUSICAL OFFERING

Simple Gifts Joseph Brackett

Naomi Henninger, Flute

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.**

Confirmation Class 2020 Faith Statement

Zachary Grim: When I think of God, I think of somebody who watches over you and always loves you no matter what happens.

Max Bilger: I believe God is at my side all the time. I know that when I pray God can hear me and help me get through tough times. I know Jesus is the son of God and is stationed as his right hand man.

Kayla Schwarz: Jesus cared about everyone. Jesus stood up for what he believed in no matter what the consequences were.

Tori McCoy: I believe that God and Jesus are represented through the Holy Spirit. you can feel their presence this way. The Holy Spirit brings me joy and peace during my faith.

Samantha Christman: The holy spirit makes me feel good about myself because I feel like I am being appreciated.

Naomi Henninger: I believe that the holy spirit is in every person. Especially when people show others that they are not alone and that someone out there cares for them.

Katie Solt: I believe that Faith is the belief and trust in God. I also believe that faith is the link between us and God.

Lila Cygan: My faith means including everyone, and I will live out my faith by doing that.

Kelsey Gelb: The Bible teaches us the story of God and Jesus. I believe it is a way to show people kindness and love.

Payge Haydt: Being a Christian means that I will be kind to those around me and do good things whenever I can.

Leah Horvath: Church is a place of worship, to bring people together. It is also a place to feel closer to God. A church is a place where anyone of any kind can come. It doesn't matter what color you are or what you believe in, you are welcomed for who you are.

Gracie Trexler: Church is not something you go to, it's a family you belong to.

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

Over the Rainbow
Payge Haydt, viola

Isreal Kamakawiwo'ole

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.

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 Here I Am Lord Text: Daniel Schutte Music: Daniel Schutte; arr. Michael Pope, SJ, Daniel L. Chutte and John Weissrock © 1981 Daniel L. Schutte and New Dawn Music

**I the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?**

CHORUS

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.**

**I the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's
pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?**

CHORUS

**I the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and
lame. I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?**

CHORUS

POSTLUDE

His Eye is on the Sparrow
Gabriel

Civilla Martin, Charles

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