



**Sunday, June 28, 2020 10:30 online worship
Abyss, Mystery, and Wonder**



Beguiled
BY BEAUTY

Cultivating a Life of Contemplation & Compassion

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

I Need Thee Every Hour
Mark Hayes

Annie S. Hawks, Robert Lowry, Arr.

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.

WE GATHER

THRESHOLD MOMENT

PRAYER

Divine Goodness, Holy One,
Pause us for this moment,
bear us up in this time,
hold us for eternity.

We open to your warming presence.

We remember we came from you.

We affirm all beings are your beloveds.

And all the people say, "**Amen.**"

Hymn

BLACK HYMNAL #31 All Things Bright and Beautiful

CHORUS

**All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
Our dear God made them all.**

**1. Each little flower that opens,
Each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colours,
and made their little wings.**

CHORUS

2. The purple headed mountain,
The river running by,
The sunset and the morning,
That brightens up the sky.

CHORUS

3. The cold wind in the winter,
The pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden,
God made them everyone one.

CHORUS

WE PROCLAIM

SEARCHING FOR BEAUTY: A TIME FOR CHILDREN WITH MRS. BONSELL

LECTIO DEVINA

① Names were important in the Ancient Near East. Names described attributes of the person to whom they were assigned and could be changed when an important occurrence shifted the story and the essence of a person. The psalmist often gives glory to “the name of God.” And yet to name God is difficult for there is no one word that can describe the fullness of the Holy. In today’s Lectio Divina passage, the psalmist describes the attributes of God for which praise is given: justice and compassion. This is unlike any other unfeeling, life-denying idol that claims to be a “god.” This is a Holy Spirit that moves and breathes—not only in setting the beauty of creation in motion, but even now. It is an indescribable presence that warrants the simple description “Beautiful Name.”

Psalm 135: 1-3; 13-21 (Inclusive Bible)

*Alleluia! Praise the Name of YHWH—
sing praise, you who serve the Most High,*

*who stand in the house of YHWH,
in the courts of God's house!*

Alleluia! God is good!

[Sing praises to God's name because it is beautiful!]

(a)

*YHWH, your Name stands forever;
your fame is told from one generation to the next.
For you do justice for your people;
and you have compassion for your faithful.*

*The idols of the nations are silver and gold,
the work of human hands.*

*They have mouths but they can't speak;
they have eyes but they can't see.*

*They have ears but can't hear;
there is never a breath on their lips.*

*Their makers will come to be like them,
and so will all who trust in them!*

House of Israel, bless YHWH!

Priests of the temple, bless YHWH!

Attendants of the sanctuary, bless YHWH!

You who revere YHWH, bless YHWH!

*Blessings from Zion upon YHWH,
who dwells in Jerusalem!*

Alleluia!

(a) Ref: CEB

SERMO DIVINA (Message) Rev. Patience Stevenson VISIO DIVINA

WE RESPOND

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

"Look Around"

Abby Hill, vocalist

Original song for the series by Marsha Jean Moors-Charles,

arr. Caleb Collins

L Usually our prayers in this series invite us to an open-eyed experience of “looking around,” there is also the experience of “looking around” inside the mysterious depths of our own imaginations, our own memories. And so today I invite you to close your eyes, simply allowing whatever image comes to you as you hear the music. Whatever comes to you, let this movie-in-your-mind be part of your praying, not questioning or analyzing too much. Just let it be. “Looking”—whether outward or inward, is a noticing of the depths of the beauty of life. And the Creator of that beauty is present, now, always.

Music:

Verse 1: When you're tired and feel you can't get through

Uncertainty comes over you

Just Look Around

When your problems seem too much to bear

Unsure if there's someone who cares

Just Look Around

Whether stranger, neighbor, family, or a friend

On each other in tough times we can depend

***Chorus:* Look Around – kindness, love is ours to share**

We can see it everywhere

Though it might seem like forever

Look Around—for even in the darkest night

Things are gonna be alright

We'll get through this together

Just Look Around!

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.**

Music:

**Verse 2: Sometimes it can be hard to see
Life is full of possibilities
So Look Around
Each new day is such a gift
Embrace it and the life you live
And Look Around
Outstretched arms and many helping hands
Don't give up on all your dreams and all your plans**

**Don't lose faith,
Keep hope alive
Cause together we'll get to the other side
When you feel weak, I'll be strong
And remind you that you're never alone**

**Chorus: Look Around – kindness, love is ours to share
We can see it everywhere
Though it might seem like forever
Look Around—for even in our darkest night
Things are gonna be alright
We'll get through this together
Just Look Around! Look Around!
Just Look Around.**

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

L As the song says, “we’ll get through this together”... “with outstretched arms and many helping hands.” Regardless of the alarming things we see in the world, the compassion that we see blossoming in this time is such a gift.

MUSIC OFFERING

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light
Tune: Houston Kathleen Thomerson Arr. by Tom Trenney
Horizon Choir, recorded 10-7-18

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>.

BEAUTIFUL SIGNS OF LOVE

Please continue to send us pictures of you and your friends or family with their hands in the heart position. We'd like to show them each week so that we can see each other, give thanks for each other, and pray for each other.

BENEDICTION

1 We continue to integrate contemplative practices into our daily lives as a way of opening to the Divine in deeper ways, thereby training our spirits for compassion in all things. This week's ritual action is a practice of curiosity. Set a reminder to spend some time exploring a "phenomenon" that you don't yet know about. It might be further exploration into what Hubble has taught us about the universe. Or it could be something about the behavior of an animal species.

Whatever you choose, as you do so, allow your mind to take in the wonder, contemplate the information slowly, open your heart to wonder. You may want to put a note nearby, "The more we know, the more we know we don't know. Wonder and awe that leads to care of creation is good... for the beauty of the earth."

The world is so varied and beautiful.
Seek wisdom wherever it is to be found.*
And may the goodness of the Creator,
the companionship of the Christ,

and the insight of the Spirit,
infuse your life now and always.
Amen

BENEDICTION SONG REPRISE

**God of all to you, we raise,
This our hymn of grateful praise!**

WE GO FORTH

POSTLUDE

There is a Fountain
American Melody

Tune: Cleansing Fountain, Early

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