



Sunday, November 29, 2020

Online Worship

“Raise your voice... do not be afraid.” —

The Messenger

Advent 1

**I Believe in the Sun: Hope for Tomorrow
Holy Communion**

Directions for Communion: Everyone is welcome to this meal of love and grace.

At Home: Since we are worshipping virtually we invite you to take communion virtually.

Please find a cracker, piece of bread or something to represent the body of Christ. And please find some juice, wine or water to represent the blood of Christ. When we get to that part of the service, the pastors will bless the elements and bless us as we share in this meal together.

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

NEW MEMBERS: For more information email Pastor Kris. pastorkris@unionucc.org or call the church office to speak to her.

We believe in extravagant welcome. We believe in God’s inclusive love. We start worship with a greeting that reflects that welcome and love.

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PRELUDE

Go Tell It On The Mountain

Pastor Kris, Pastor Kayli, and Marissa Haney

Send us videos of you and your loved ones singing your favorite Christmas songs.

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.

CALL TO WORSHIP I Believe Mark A. Miller

L This Advent, we are looking to hear words of comfort, of challenge and of good news. The prophet Isaiah and the four Gospel authors were writing in a time when people needed desperately to hear all of these as well. This first week, Isaiah, the prophet, and Mark—the Gospel writer who published first—reassure the people that good news is beginning and yet they both say, “Make yourself ready! Raise your voices, change your hearts, get ready to be transformed, because now is the time.” Let us embrace hope that we can do what needs to be done to bring more light into the world.

SOLO: Jason Klinger

I believe in the sun, I believe in the sun,
even when, even when it's not shining.

SOLO/CHOIR: I believe in the sun, I believe in the sun,
even when, even when it's not shining.

Reader 1: The place without light

Reader 2: The place without light

Reader 1: The depth of night

Reader 2: The depth of night
Reader 1: The pit of unknowing
Reader 2: The pit of unknowing

PRAYER

Holy One,
we thank you for the glimpses we catch
of your gift of untiring hope.
Even in the midst of fear,
of challenge, of struggle—
even when our view is obscured
by clouds of doubt,
ignite the flame of **hope** within us,

**ALL: ... that we might glow with its brilliance
from the inside out.**

**ALL (SUNG):
I believe in the sun,
I believe in the sun,
even when... even when...
it's not shining.**

1 Help us face this bleak night of the soul
and embrace it as a womb of rebirth.
Amen.

If you have an advent wreath at home, or a candle, you are invited to light your candle of Hope at this time.

*New Century Hymnal (Black) **#122** Come, Thou Long
Expected Jesus Charles Wesley alt. Public Domain

**1. Come, O long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
grant us your true liberty.**

2. Israel's strength and consolation,

**hope of all the earth impart;
dear desire of every nation,
enter every longing heart.**

**3. Born all people to deliver,
born a child you came to reign,
born to rule on earth forever,
come, be known to us again.**

**4. By your own eternal spirit
come to claim us as your own;
by your all sufficient merit,
let us share your cross and crown.**

Passing the Peace

You are invited to turn toward those who are with you or to face toward your screen and bow, offer the peace sign, or use sign language for “peace.”

Children’s Time to Shine

This Little Light of Mine with Mrs. Maryann Puia

This Little Light of Mine is a song that turns 100 years old this year! A woman named Fannie Lou Hamer sang it on a bus one day that had been stopped by police and it became a very important song that was sung a lot during the Civil Rights movement when some people wanted to dim the light of African Americans by not letting them vote in elections. As we all learn more about the importance of music in making the world a better place, we are going to highlight this song! There are four verses and we are going to learn one each week.

Isaiah Scripture Reading

Isaiah 40: 1-11 (CEB)

Comfort, comfort my people!
says your God.

Speak compassionately to Jerusalem,
and proclaim to her that her compulsory service has
ended,
that her penalty has been paid,

that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins!

A voice is crying out:

"Clear the Lord's way in the desert!

Make a level highway in the wilderness for our God!

Every valley will be raised up,
and every mountain and hill will be flattened.
Uneven ground will become level,
and rough terrain a valley plain.

The Lord's glory will appear,
and all humanity will see it together;
the Lord's mouth has commanded it."

A voice was saying:

"Call out!"

And another said,

"What should I call out?"

All flesh is grass;

all its loyalty is like the flowers of the field.

The grass dries up
and the flower withers
when the Lord's breath blows on it.
Surely the people are grass.

The grass dries up;
the flower withers,
but our God's word will exist forever.

Go up on a high mountain,
messenger Zion!
Raise your voice and shout,
messenger Jerusalem!
Raise it; don't be afraid;
say to the cities of Judah,
"Here is your God!"

Here is the Lord God,
coming with strength,
with a triumphant arm,
bringing his reward with him
and his payment before him.
Like a shepherd, God will tend the flock;
he will gather lambs in his arms
and lift them onto his lap.
He will gently guide the nursing ewes.

Gospel Scripture Reading

Mark 1: 1-15 (CEB)

The beginning of the good news about Jesus Christ, God's Son, happened just as it was written about in the prophecy of Isaiah:

*Look, I am sending my messenger before you.
He will prepare your way,
a voice shouting in the wilderness:
"Prepare the way for the Lord;
make his paths straight."*

John the Baptist was in the wilderness calling for people to be baptized to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins. Everyone in Judea and all the people of Jerusalem went out to the Jordan River and were being baptized by John as they confessed their sins. John wore clothes made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. He announced, "One stronger than I am is coming after me. I'm not even worthy to bend over and loosen the strap of his sandals. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

About that time, Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River. While he was coming up out of the water, Jesus saw heaven splitting open and the Spirit, like a dove, coming down on him. And there was a

voice from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness.”

At once the Spirit forced Jesus out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among the wild animals, and the angels took care of him.

After John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee announcing God’s good news, saying, “Now is the time! Here comes God’s kingdom! Change your hearts and lives, and trust this good news!”

Reflection I Believe in the Sun: Hope for Tomorrow
Rev. Kris Snyder-Samuels

FILM FESTIVAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

(See the details of reflections, activities and prayers in the care package you received from the Pastors and Staff.)

Family Film Festival: A Charlie Brown Christmas

Defiant Requiem For more information, check out <https://www.defiantrequiem.org>

Watch the entire movie at Amazon Prime video (You can get a 30-day free trial of Amazon Prime if you do not already have this service.)

A Litany of Belief

In times when humanity disappoints,
perhaps when even our own thoughts and behaviors
disappoint,

it is an important act to call out, name and claim, the
consequences of our wrongs.

And in times of distress it is a prophetic act to call out,
name and claim, our belief in the hope for tomorrow.

What you’re your statements of belief in this time and
place?

LI believe that we have looked the other way too many times AND

People: I believe that we are capable of facing reality and working for change.

LI believe that our fear of difference has robbed us of compassion AND

People: I believe that we can look deeper and hold onto the things that we have in common.

LI believe that our fear of doubt makes us stop asking tough questions AND

People: I believe that asking tough questions in the face of injustice is faithful.

LWe believe, even when we are discouraged.

People: We believe, that when we are discouraged, raising our voices for justice will offer us hope!

Prayers in the Stillness

In the Stillness Lindy Thompson, Mark Miller

Solo: Jason Klinger

LI invite you to get in a comfortable position of rest.
I invite you to get as quiet and still as you can.
I invite you to a deep breath and a deep listening posture—perhaps eyes closed or fixed on a candle—as we prepare for a time of prayer.

SOLO: The gentle pull of God
is often lost amidst the rush
of all the obligations which lay a claim on us.

Yet just beyond the frantic pace
our restless feet have trod
lie deep still pools of quietness—
the dwelling place of God.

Meet me in the stillness, Lord
Be the air I breathe

Meet me in the stillness, Lord
Free me to receive

O take me to that secret place
where lost in wonder and in awe,
the moment comes and I rejoice
to be and be with God.

Meet me in the stillness, Lord
Be the air I breathe
Meet me in the stillness, Lord
Free me to receive

ALL Sung Coda:

**Meet me in the stillness, Lord
Free me to receive,
to receive.**

Offering Announcement and Opportunities to “Fill the Night” with Hope

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>.

COMMUNION

Directions for Communion: Everyone is welcome to this meal of love and grace.

At Home: Since we are worshipping virtually we invite you to take communion virtually.

Please find a cracker, piece of bread or something to represent the body of Christ. And please find some juice, wine or water to represent the blood of Christ.

L Our God, Song of the Ages, be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

L Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord.

L Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

L: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to raise our voices with you, tuning ourselves to you, creator of heaven and earth.

You filled the night of creation with music and light,
setting in motion the rhythms
of sunrise and sunset, of sound and silence.

You formed within us your love song
and breathed into us the breath of life.

Sometimes our voices are choked off
and we cannot find your melody.
But you keep the bass line humming,
waiting for us to rejoin the chorus.
You show up in the worst of times
offering us the way to freedom in you.
Your voice breaks through in prophets whose songs
wake us up to the kin-dom you desire.

L Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

Breaking forth into light from the blessed darkness of a womb, he brought light that illumined a path so we could see our way to more beloved community.

Your Spirit anointed him to raise his voice...
to preach good news to the poor,
to proclaim release to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
and to announce that the time had come
when you would save your people.
He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners
and invited us to do this too.

Born into a world of suffering, he suffered.
Born into a world of senseless death, he died.
Born into a world that needed hope, he rose,
delivering us and proclaiming light and life
the triumphal coda of life's song.

When the Lord Jesus ascended,
he promised to be with us always,
in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.
Holy Luminary, lighting our way.

L On the night in which he gave himself up for us,
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,
gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Drink from this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.”

Blessing

L Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and fruit of the vine.
Make them be for us your love and light
so that our hearts may be broken open for the world
and our lives poured out in service.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other,
and one in ministry to all the world.
Mix our voices in harmony with each other
until we sit at the same table
and sing in the same choir
in your Kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven.

SHARING THE BREAD and CUP

L The gifts of God for the people of God. Take and eat, take
and drink.

MUSIC OFFERING

Angels We Have Heard on High

Edwin S. Barnes

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

ALL: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have
refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence
of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love
for one another, and send us forth into the world in
courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy
Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

WE GO FORTH

Carol of Resistance

L Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote this poem at Harvard
on Christmas Day in 1863 during the heart of the Civil War.
His wife had died tragically in a fire and he had just found

out that his son had been injured as a soldier for the Union. He heard the sound of bells and began to write, spurred on by his sorrow at the state of humankind:

*“And in despair, I bowed my head:
There is no peace on earth, ’ I said,
For hate is strong and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good will to [all].”*

And yet hope wins out as he pens the fourth verse:

*“Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
“God is not dead, nor doth [not] sleep;
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
With peace on earth, good will to [all].”*

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow | John Baptiste Calkin
Words and Music: Public Domain

**1. I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth goodwill to [all]**

**2. I thought how as the day had come
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along th'unbroken song
Of peace on earth goodwill to [all]**

**3. And in despair I bowed my head
There is no peace on earth I said
For hate is strong and mocks the song
Of peace on earth goodwill to [all]**

**4. Then pealed the bells more loud and deep
God is not dead nor doth He sleep
The wrong shall fail the right prevail
With peace on earth goodwill to [all]**

**5. Till ringing singing on its way
The world revolved from night to day
A voice a chime a chant sublime
Of peace on earth goodwill to [all]**

Benediction

L We wait for justice
but we do not wait to work for change;

We wait for restored health
but we do not wait to work to heal;

We wait for wholeness
but we do not wait to work at binding brokenness;

We wait for peace
but we do not wait to work to eliminate hatred.

And so, my friends, like bells ringing out the news
that the sun still shines even on cloudy days,
fill the night left by sadness with messages of hope.
Go into your lives humming the tunes that keep that
hope alive in you
and that spur you on in your work of justice and
reconciliation.

Raise your voices and repeat after me...
“do not be afraid!”

**ALL: “do not be afraid!”
Amen!**

Postlude

I Believe Handchime Benediction Mark A. Miller/
Stephanie Rhoades

**Chimers: Sandy Daumer, Veronica Fabian, Susan
Glosan, Dan Haftl, Bonnie Herzog, Carol Pope, Ron
Pope, Debbie Romig and Tami Wassum.**

Director: Edie Fella

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Sanctuary and Church decorations: Susan Glosan, Ron Pope, Edie Fella, Dan Gilbert, Deb Wenner, Claire Kern, Kathy Bonsell, Deb Topp, Pastor Kayli, Pastor Kris

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)	
Last Week	\$9,297
Calendar 2020 (Jan-Oct)	\$295,013
Calendar 2019 (Jan-Oct)	\$312,466
Change from Last Year	-5.6%
Budget (July-Oct)	\$120,000
Actual (July-Oct)	\$111,995
Giving vs. Budget	-6.7%
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>	

2020 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Last	238lbs
Total YTD:	7,196 lbs, \$2,430

SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS SPONSORS:

Be born in us we pray (Pastor Kris)

Your support is especially important now as we work to provide spiritual care and connection for members and the community through Facebook posts, ads, and online worship.

Be a sponsor for \$20, send to Union UCC through your offering envelope or online marked Spread the Good News.

Contact Marissa to sign up for a certain date or to sponsor in honor or memory of someone.