



**Sunday, December 20, 2020**

**Online Worship**

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

*The Messenger*

**Advent 4**

**I Believe in the Light: Illuminating Peace**

**GUESTS,** Welcome to worship. To learn more about us, please visit our website at [www.unionucc.org](http://www.unionucc.org) or like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/unionneffs](https://www.facebook.com/unionneffs) . If you would like us to follow up with you contact Pastor Kris at 610-767-6961, [pastorkris@unionucc.org](mailto:pastorkris@unionucc.org)

**NEW MEMBERS:** For more information email Pastor Kris. [pastorkris@unionucc.org](mailto: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**

### The Pope Family

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** The "great light" prophesied by Isaiah in today's text is echoed in the first strains of John's Gospel good news: the light that brings peace—that saves the people from all that would extinguish it—has been there from the beginning. The Word is made flesh and dwells among us. This reign is now... will we believe it? Will we continue to put flesh on it, embodying the peace meant for all humanity?

## **SOLO: Emily Bachl**

I believe in God, I believe in God,  
even when, even when God is silent.

SOLO/CHOIR: I believe in God, I believe in God,  
even when, even when God is silent.

Reader 1 : We see the star rising

Reader 2: We see the star rising

Reader 1: We hear the glad tidings

Reader 2: We hear the glad tidings

Reader 1: We know we are not alone

Reader 2: We know we are not alone

## **PRAYER**

Holy One,  
we thank you for the glimpses we catch  
of your gift of peace on earth.  
Even in the midst of fear,  
of challenge, of struggle—  
even when we aren't sure that  
goodwill among us can be found,  
ignite the flame of peace within us,

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

**ALL: (SUNG)**  
**I believe in the light,**  
**I believe in the light,**  
**that has come... that has come...**  
**and is coming.**

**L** Help us face the pain of life  
and embrace the assurance that light is already here, and  
always coming. Amen.

**\*Hymn** O Come, O Come Emmanuel  
Hymns for the Family of God - Gold Hymnal 169  
**O come, o come, Emmanuel**  
**And ransom captive Israel**  
**That mourns in lonely exile here**  
**Until the son of god appear**  
**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel**  
**Shall come to thee, o Israel.**

**O come, thou day-spring, come and cheer**  
**Our spirits by thine advent here**  
**Disperse the gloomy clouds of night**  
**And death's dark shadows put to flight.**  
**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel**  
**Shall come to thee, o Israel.**

**O come, Thou Wisdom from on high  
And order all things far and nigh  
To us the path of knowledge show  
And cause us in her ways to go.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, o Israel**

### **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.

### **Story and Song with ALATHEA**

**Welcome back, welcome home,  
Mandee and Cristi to  
Union UCC for the 7th time.**

Today’s special music by Alatheia is made possible by the Funds of Lasting Gifts.

**Alatheia’s music is available for sale on their website at [www.alatheia.com](http://www.alatheia.com).**

**See the booklet you received in the mail or see the post on facebook for activities and prayers from the worship series.**

## **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:** The Muppet Christmas Carol

**Adult Film Festival:** Sweet Honey In The Rock: Raise Your Voice!

A description of this week's film, from the Director, Stanley Nelson: Emerging from the strong tradition of Freedom Singers, Sweet Honey in the Rock is a group that's as soulfully rich as it is provocative. Using song to stand in unison, five African American women sing solely a cappella, along with a sign language translator. Their music evokes stories from the past, encourages introspection in the present, and inspires progress for the future. Since it was founded in 1973, over twenty different women have contributed to the Grammy Award-winning group's distinct sound, which embraces semblances of gospel, blues, and hip hop, all with a political tone. The film features a trove of concert and rehearsal footage as it follows the group on their thirtieth anniversary tour, which is also coincidentally when founder Bernice Johnson Reagon announces she will retire. Through a variety of interviews with members, historians, and fellow artists, the film explores the roots of Sweet Honey in the Rock's existence and influence.

## **Prayers in the Stillness**

In the Stillness Lindy Thompson, Mark Miller

Soloist: Emily Bachl

Leader: I 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](mailto: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>.

## WE GO FORTH

### Carol of Resistance

① Our Carol of Resistance this week is part of the repertoire of Christmas songs that were created by people who endured brutal hardships as the result of African colonization and North American slavery. But, though people of African descent were ripped from much of their cultural heritage, they maintained their heritage of group song, punctuated by West African rhythms and vocal stylings. Of course the safest thing for oppressed peoples to sing about was the religious beliefs that, first forced upon them by their oppressors, later gave many hope in the midst of suffering. “Go Tell It On The Mountain” is probably the best-known African American Christmas song and the words “seeker” and “watchman” are thought by some to have been code words for those seeking freedom on the Underground Railroad. It was made popular by the [Fisk Jubilee Singers](#) in the 19th century as these college students—themselves freed slaves—traveled the country to raise money and awareness. They were turned away from hotels, railway waiting rooms, and even some churches because of their color. As we sing, let us honor them, honor all who have endured slavery and the continued systemic racism caused by slavery. Let us...

*“Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.  
Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.”*

... indeed that the Prince of Peace that calls us  
to break the chains of oppression... is *born!*

Hymn: Go Tell It On the Mountain  
205 Hymns for the Family of God - Gold Hymnal

CHORUS:

Go tell it on the mountain  
Over the hills and everywhere  
Go tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born

1. While shepherds kept their watching  
O'er silent flocks by night  
Behold throughout the heavens  
There shone a holy light

CHORUS

2. Shepherds feared and trembled  
When low above the earth  
Rang out the angels chorus  
That hailed our savior's birth

CHORUS

3. Down in a lowly manger  
The humble Christ was born  
And God sent our salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn

CHORUS

**Benediction**

① 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 light has dawned and shines on all people,  
fill the night left by sadness with messages of peace  
Go into your lives humming the tunes that keep that joy  
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!”**

**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

TODAY: LIVE COFFEE HOUR WITH ALATHEA at 11:30am

Topic: Alatheia Coffee Hour Starts at 11:30am

Join Zoom Meeting: [https://zoom.us/j/93895922877?](https://zoom.us/j/93895922877?pwd=WTA2WIBYTnhrUjNOZ0ZPbi9pejZCQT09)  
[pwd=WTA2WIBYTnhrUjNOZ0ZPbi9pejZCQT09](https://zoom.us/j/93895922877?pwd=WTA2WIBYTnhrUjNOZ0ZPbi9pejZCQT09)

**Meeting ID: 938 9592 2877    Passcode: 443018**

One tap mobile: +13017158592,,93895922877#,,,,,0#,,443018#  
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Dial by your location

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# EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)	
Last Week	\$10,439
Calendar 2020 (Jan-Nov.)	\$327,195
Calendar 2019 (Jan-Nov)	\$343,061
Change from Last Year	-4.6%
Budget (July-Nov)	\$159,210
Actual (July-Nov)	\$144,178
Giving vs. Budget	-9.4%
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>	

2020 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Last Week:	\$45
Total YTD:	7,666 lbs, \$3,535

Christmas Mission
\$372

## **SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS SPONSORS:**

**In memory of parents, Gordon and Ruth Rothrock by daughters, Lucille Kuhns, Lana Retiz, and Leoma Kern**

*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.*