



Sunday, December 27, 2020

Online Worship

College Age/ Young Adult Worship

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

Sunday After Christmas

Believe This: The Time Has Come

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

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 Courtney Gelb

L The Good News that we have proclaimed for this Advent/Christmas season ends with a second chapter of Luke that starts, "When the time came..." Indeed, the time has come for us to move from the narrative of birthing to the narrative of redemption. The story of Jesus' ritual cleansing as a child contains stories of people who had been waiting for this moment. But the time of waiting is over—for us too. Like Isaiah who says, "for Zion's sake I won't stay silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I won't sit still," we will not stop our songs of resistance until justice shines out like a light for all.

Abby Kern

SOLO: 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 clouds begin to clear

Reader 2: The clouds begin to clear

Reader 1: The horizon starts to glow

Reader 2: The horizon starts to glow

Reader 1: The time has come

Reader 2: The time has come

Prayer Lindsay Gelb

Holy One,
we thank you for the glimpses we have caught
throughout this season of Advent and Christmas
of your gifts of hope, love, joy, and peace.
Even in the midst of fear,
of challenge, of struggle—
even when we have not been sure of tomorrow,
you have ignited the Light within us,

ALL: ... and we have glowed 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.

L Help us continue to proclaim far and wide that the time has come for light to be among all people. **Amen.**

If you have an advent wreath at home, or a candle, you are invited to light all of your candles and the Christ candle at this time.

Hymn Angels from the Realms of Glory, New Century Hymnal #126

1. Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
As you sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Refrain: Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, give thanks and sing.

2. Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light:

Refrain

3. Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of Nations, guided by Christ's natal star:

Refrain

4. Saints, before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly, your prayers attending, Christ beside you shall appear.

Refrain

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 Julie Lane

Isaiah 61:10 - 62:3 (CEB)

*I surely rejoice in the Lord;
my heart is joyful because of my God,
because he has clothed me with clothes of victory,
wrapped me in a robe of righteousness
like a bridegroom in a priestly crown,
and like a bride adorned in jewelry.*

*As the earth puts out its growth,
and as a garden grows its seeds,
so the Lord God will grow righteousness
and praise before all the nations.*

*For Zion's sake I won't keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I won't sit still
until her righteousness shines out like a light,
and her salvation blazes like a torch.*

*Nations will see your righteousness,
all kings your glory.
You will be called by a new name,
which the Lord's own mouth will determine.
You will be a splendid garland in the Lord's hand,
a royal turban in the palm of God's hand.*

Gospel Scripture Reading Alexia DeNardo

Luke 2: 22-40 (CEB)

When the time came for their ritual cleansing, in accordance with the Law from Moses, they brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. (It's written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male will be dedicated to the Lord.") They

offered a sacrifice in keeping with what's stated in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.

A man named Simeon was in Jerusalem. He was righteous and devout. He eagerly anticipated the restoration of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. The Holy Spirit revealed to him that he wouldn't die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. Led by the Spirit, he went into the temple area. Meanwhile, Jesus' parents brought the child to the temple so that they could do what was customary under the Law. Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God. He said,

*"Now, master, let your servant go in peace according to your word,
because my eyes have seen your salvation.
You prepared this salvation in the presence of all peoples.
It's a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and a glory for your people Israel."*

His father and mother were amazed by what was said about him. Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "This boy is assigned to be the cause of the falling and rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that generates opposition so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your innermost being too."

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, who belonged to the tribe of Asher. She was very old. After she married, she lived with her husband for seven years. She was now an 84-year-old widow. She never left the temple area but worshipped God with fasting and prayer night and day. She approached at that very moment and began to praise God and to speak about Jesus to everyone who was looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

When Mary and Joseph had completed everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to their hometown,

Nazareth in Galilee. The child grew up and became strong. He was filled with wisdom, and God's favor was on him.

Reflection Believe This: The Time has Come
Jacob Roth

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 Polar Express

Adult Film Festival: The Singing Revolution

Most people don't think about singing when they think about revolutions. But in Estonia song was the weapon of choice when, between 1987 and 1991, Estonians sought to free themselves from decades of Soviet occupation. During those years, hundreds of thousands gathered in fields to sing forbidden patriotic songs and to rally for independence. The Singing Revolution documents how the Estonian people regained their freedom and helped topple the Soviet Union along the way.

A Litany of Belief Brooke Penrod

Leader 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?

Leader: I believe that we have failed to see Christ AND

**People: I believe that we can wake up and serve him
by serving others.**

Leader: I believe that we have waited for someone else to rescue us AND

People: I believe that we can be the change we want to see.

Leader: I believe that we have hidden the light for too long AND

People: I believe that the light can shine whenever we open ourselves to be Christ's presence in the world.

Leader: We believe, even when we are discouraged.

People: We believe, that when we are discouraged, raising our voices for justice will offer more hope, more love, more joy, more peace, and more light! Amen!

Prayers in the Stillness Abby Hill

In the Stillness Lindy Thompson, Mark Miller

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
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>.

Music Offering

Coventry Carol trad. English carol Alison Dyszel

WE GO FORTH

Carol of Resistance Brittany Gelb

LThis carol was written in 1962 by Noel Regney and Gloria Shayne at the height of the Cuban Missile Crisis. Inspired by seeing babies pushed in strollers in New York City while the dire threat of nuclear war loomed, Noel wrote, “said the night wind to the little lamb,” and “pray for peace, people everywhere.” The “star dancing in the night with a tail as big as a kite” can be interpreted as the star of Bethlehem but also what a nuclear missile looks like in flight. The composers said in an interview later that it was difficult to actually sing the song that year without crying. Indeed, our prayers for peace continue and the need to protect the children of the world and secure a future for them are as dire as ever. As the last song in our series, let us sing this Carol of Resistance, “a song high above the trees” with our voices “big as the sea.”

HYMN Do You Hear What I Hear Noel Regney/Gloria Shayne

1.Said the night wind to the little lamb,
“Do you see what I see? Way up in the sky little lamb,
Do you see what I see?
A star, a star, dancing in the night, with a tail as big as a kite,
With a tail as big as a kite.”

2.Said the little lamb, to the shepherd boy,
“Do you hear what I hear? Ringing through the sky shepherd
boy,
Do you hear what I hear?
A song, a song, high above the tree, with a voice as big as the
sea,

With a voice as big as the sea.”

3.Said the shepherd boy to the mighty king,
“Do you know what I know? In your palace warm,
mighty king,
Do you know what I know?
A child, a child, shivers in the cold; let us bring him silver
and gold,
Let us bring him silver and gold.”

4.Said the king to the people ev’rywhere,
“Listen to what I say! Pray for peace, people ev’rywhere,
Listen to what I say!
The child, the Child, sleeping in the night, He will bring
us goodness and light,
He will bring us goodness and light.”

Benediction

Leader: 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 we believe that good will prevail,
fill the night left by sadness with light.
Go into your lives humming the tunes that keep that
goodness 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: (kss names from edie)

Director: Edie Fella

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EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)	
Last Week	\$11,522
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	71lbs, \$30
Total YTD:	7,737 lbs, \$3,520

Christmas Mission
\$1,916.27

SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS SPONSORS:

I give Thanks to God for keeping me well and out of the hospital for six months now- Carolyn Barry

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.