



**Sunday, January 3, 2021**  
**Online Worship**  
**John 1: (1-9) 10-18**  
**Communion/ Faith Commitment Sunday**

**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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**C** = Congregation    **L** = Leader    **P** = Pastor  
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## **Holy Communion**

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

**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.**

### **PRELUDE**

For The Beauty of the Earth

Folliot S. Pierpoint

### **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.

**\*HYMN GOLD HYMNAL #171 Joy to the World!**  
**Jacob & Mitchell Roth**

1) Joy to the world! The Lord is come: Let earth receive her King:  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing  
And heaven, and heave and nature sing.

2) Joy to the world! The Savior reigns: Let men their songs  
employ:  
While fields and floods, rocks hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3) No more let sings and sorrow grow, Nor thorns infest the  
ground;

He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found  
Far as, far as the curse is found.

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Presents unwrapped,

**All: Batteries are all run-down. Christmas trees are turning brown.**

Leader: Still, one present glows so bright --

**All: The Child in a manger with heavenly light.**

Leader: Christmas continues the whole year round

**All: Whenever love and kindness abound.**

Leader: So gather your wits and sing loud and strong.

**All: Christmas continues, so raise up your song!**

## \*Prayer

**ALL: O God of the darkened sky and chilly dawn, God of the blanket of snow and the icy pond, God at all seasons, teach us your truths in these short days and long nights. Teach us the lessons of waiting. Like seeds and bulbs lying hidden, may we nurture the silences and trust in your wisdom hidden in the stillness. Teach us the lessons of expectancy, of opening our eyes to see everyday wonders: the babble of a baby, the letter from a forgotten friend, the twinkle of a light, the crunch of snow. God of all seasons, we celebrate this day with you. Amen**

## Children's Time

### THE READING OF SCRIPTURE

The Gospel John 1: (1-9)10-18

**1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**2** He was in the beginning with God.

**3** All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being

**4** in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

**5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did

not overcome it.

**6** There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

**7** He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.

**8** He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

**9** The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

**10** He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him.

**11** He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.

**12** But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God,

**13** who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

**14** And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

**15** (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ")

**16** From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

**17** The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

**18** No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

## **THE MESSAGE**

Let's Make a Resolution

Pastor Kayli Freeman

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

## **OFFERING AND OFFERTORY**

### **Faith Commitment Moment with Pastor Kris**

**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>.

## **Order for Holy Communion**

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Ⓛ The wise ones followed the star to find the Christ child. And we, today, still follow. Sometimes the journey is easy, the sky is clear and the star leading us to him shines bright. Other times the sky is cloudy, and we do not know which way to travel. And sometimes, we follow him here, to this place to be fed and to rest. It is here at this table that we find Christ and dine with him. So whether you are a follower under clear skies, sure of your destination, or one who is looking to find the light behind the clouds, you are welcome here.

### **COMMUNION PRAYER**

Ⓛ May God be with you

Ⓞ And also with you!

Ⓛ Lift up your hearts

Ⓞ We lift them up to God!

Ⓛ Let us give thanks to God most high.

Ⓞ It is right to give God thanks and praise!

**L** God of starlight and sunlight, you set the heavens in place and created all that exist around them. You created people to live on the earth and gave us the rules to follow you. We did not listen. We disobeyed. You tried time and time again to bring us back into covenant with you, and time and time again, we failed. We failed after floods, wars, the gifts of commandments, and when the prophets spoke your word directly to us. We needed to begin again. At the beginning of a new calendar year, we remember the best new beginning you sent us. A baby. Wrapped in swaddling clothes. Lying in a manger. Your son sent to redeem us all. Those who were wise followed the light you placed in the sky and found him. They brought gifts, trusted their dreams, and went home by another road.

### **\*JESUS' WORDS AT HIS LAST SUPPER**

**L** Jesus reached for the bread and cup on the table of his last meal, and reminded his disciples—and now us— that we must cry out for justice and joy for all living things.

He gave thanks to you, Holy God, broke the bread, and told them, “Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

And then 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 love, 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** You loved us so fully and completely, you came to us in a child. You call us, invite us, and welcome us to do work in Jesus' name. You call us, invite us, and welcome us to shine Christ's light to a world. You call us, invite us, and welcome us here to this table to remember that he was born for us, and died for us. In his death and resurrection, we find new life. Holy Spirit, we pray that you would be poured out in this meal. That you may draw us into the presence of the risen Christ through this bread and wine. That they may remind us of the body and blood that were broken and shed for us. At this table, may we be nourished so that we may go out into

the world and continue the work you called us to – to love, serve, and care in your light and Spirit, we pray, saying

**\*The 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, for ever. Amen.**

**Sharing the Bread and the Cup**

**L** Take and eat, take and drink.

**Musical Offering**

Go Tell It On The Mountain                      Spiritual

**\*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.**

**BLESSING**

**Hymn #584 Black I am the Light of the World**

When the song of angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the sages and the shepherds have found their way home,

The work of Christmas is begun.

**REFRAIN:** I am the light of the world!  
You people come and follow me!  
If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery of what  
you're meant to do and be.

To find the lost and lonely one,  
To heal the broken soul with love,  
To feed the hungry children with warmth and good food,  
To fee the earth below, the sky above!

**REFRAIN**

To free the prisoner from all chains,  
To make the powerful care,  
To rebuild the nations with strength of good will,  
To see all God's children everywhere!

**REFRAIN**

To bring hope to every task you do,  
To dance at a baby's new birth,  
To make music in an old person's heart  
And sing to the colors of the earth!

**REFRAIN**

**\*POSTLUDE**

Mansion Over the Hilltop

Ira F. Stanphill



# EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)	
Last Week	\$29,469
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	
Last	lbs, \$25
Total YTD:	7,737 lbs, \$3,545

Christmas Mission
\$2,215

## SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS SPONSORS:

*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.*