



God is Holding Your Life

Sunday, January 17, 2021

Online Worship
“Awe and Wonder”

A Journey of Assurance for the New Year



www.worshipdesignstudio.com/life

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.

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey and faith's journey
You are welcome here.

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PRELUDE

Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella French Carol

WELCOME

Life is a series of exclamations from “O No!” to “Help!” to “Oh Yeah!” We can swing between disappointment, helplessness, and gratitude on a daily basis. The Book of Psalms knows all about this. Written over a span of time from exile and isolation to the rebuilding of the community, the poetry of the Psalms will accompany us in this series, reminding us that through it all, we can trust that God is, indeed, holding our lives.

Let us seek to simplify this moment, slow down for a time. Let us worship, leaning on prayer, reflection and sharing with one another.

Threshold

“God is Holding Your Life”

L Strength and peace is the prayer of the Psalm this week. The Psalmist says “let me count the ways” that we can know the strength of the Holy One. With awe and wonder we behold the presence of God in all the elements of creation—water, fire, air, earth. And it is this glory that assures us that God, indeed, is holding our lives.

SUNG:

**Lift up your eyes, behold the hills.
From where will help and rescue come?
We call the One who made the earth,
Who bless'd the stars, the moon and sun.**

**God is holding your life
God is holding your life
God is holding your life, we believe**

**God is holding your life
God is holding your life
God is holding your life, we believe**

Opening Prayer

Leader: Holy and Awesome God,
You who created everything in a spectacular show of light
and matter.

Open us this day to the wonder of your power
so that we might know the everlasting strength of your reign
on earth as it is in heaven.

**People: We praise you for your mighty works,
holding our lives in the fabric of the cosmos.
Amen.**

**HYMN HYMN 159 As with Gladness Those of Old
New Century Hymnal (Black Hymnal)**

1. As with gladness those of old
did the guiding star behold,
as with joy they hailed its light,
leading onward, beaming bright;
so, true Morning Star may we
evermore your splendor see.

2 As with joyful steps they sped,
to that lowly manger bed,
there to bend the knee before
one whom heaven and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet
ever seek your mercy seat.

3 As they offered gifts most rare
at that manger plain and bare,
so may we with holy joy,
pure and free from sin's alloy,

all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to you, from whom they spring.

Psalm Reading

Psalm 29

Lukan Psalter translation

[\[link\]](#) if NRSV is preferred]

Give glory to ADONAI, you heavenly court,
give ADONAI glory and strength!
Give forth the glory that God's Name deserves,
and worship ADONAI in the splendor of holiness!

The voice of ADONAI resounds
over the waters;
the God of glory thunders over the
raging seas.
God's voice is powerful,
God's voice is full of majesty.

The voice of ADONAI snaps the cedars,
shatters the cedars of Lebanon.
It makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Sirion like a young wild ox.

The voice of ADONAI strikes with
bolts of lightning;
the voice of YHWH shakes the wilderness,
the wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of God twists the oaks,
and strips the forests bare;
and in God's Temple all cry, "Glory!"

ADONAI sits in judgment over the flood;
ADONAI is its Ruler forever.
Give strength to your people, ADONAI!
Bless your people with peace!

Reflections and Testimonies of Being Held

Pastor Kris and Friends

Suzanne Lorah

Raegan Minnich

Christina Thrash

Sung Reprise

God is Holding Your Life

God is holding your life

God is holding your life

God is holding your life, we believe

[repeat]

“Selah” Moment

As we explained last week, the Psalms have a repeated direction throughout—the word “Selah.” While scholars are not sure exactly what it means, we are taking it to mean a “pause in the action.” Pause is something that we need and our faith calls us to this holy pause. We will use an instrumental sound to remind us to take a pause, a breath, and remember that the settling of our hearts can offer the feeling that we are held in the hands of the Divine. We will hear [the sound] and then have some silence. Feel free to close your eyes if you like. Imagine yourself held in safety and love and care. When you hear [the sound] again, open your eyes.

Silence

Prayers of the People

Let us continue our prayers. I will offer a category of concern and we will allow a brief pause. As a prayer posture for this worship series, I invite you to cup your hands, ready to receive God’s love and peace, and in preparation to be God’s love and peace in the world.

Let us pray for the leaders of this world and this church community...

God of Justice, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for those who live in conflict around the world...

Prince of Peace, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for all who are experiencing loss of any kind in this pandemic...

Comforting Healer, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for those who are homeless, hungry and alone...

Emmanuel, God-With-Us, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for those who live in comfort, for Christ-like hospitality and generosity...

Transforming Spirit, hear our prayer.

Holy and Living One,

for those we have named and the ones whose names we do not know,

hear our prayer.

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, forever. Amen.**

Sung Prayer Response

Put Peace Into Each Other's Hands

Abby Hill

[sung]

**Put peace into each other's hands
and like a treasure hold it,
protect it like a candle flame,
with tenderness enfold it.**

**Put peace into each other's hands
with loving expectation;
be gentle in your words and ways,
in touch with God's creation.**

The Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Will you make a gesture of extending your cupped hands toward others who may be with or near you as a sign of offering the peace that Christ gives us. If you are alone, place your cupped hands over your heart, as a sign that you send your heartfelt peace out to the world.

**Give thanks for strong yet tender hands
held out in trust and blessing.
Where words fall short let hands speak out;
the heights of love expressing.**

Offerings and Announcements

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>.

Benediction

Now go in the knowledge that
God is holding your life
even as we hold each other.
You are not alone.
You are loved.
Amen.

HYMN #160 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing The New Century Hymnal (Black Hymnal)

1. Hark! the herald angels sing.
Jesus, the light of the world.
Glory to the newborn King,
Jesus, the light of the world.

Refrain:

We will follow the light, the light, beautiful light.
Come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright.
Oh, shine all around us by day and by night.
Jesus, the light of the world.

2 Joyful, all you nations, rise.
Jesus, the light of the world.
Join the triumph of the skies.
Jesus, the light of the world.

[Refrain]

3 Christ, by highest heav'n adored.
Jesus, the light of the world.
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Jesus, the light of the world.

[Refrain]

4 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace.
Jesus, the light of the world.
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Jesus, the light of the world.

[Refrain]

Postlude

The Holly and the Ivy 18th Century English Carol

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EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)	
Last Week	\$5,843
Calendar 2020 (Jan-Dec.)	\$397,359
Calendar 2019 (Jan-Dec)	\$422,060
Change from Last Year	-5.9%
Budget (July-Dec.)	\$225,700
Actual (July-Dec.)	\$214,341
Giving vs. Budget	-5.0%
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>	

2020 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Last Week:	lbs, \$22
Total YTD:	7,737 lbs, \$22

Christmas Mission
\$2,417.32

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.