



God is Holding Your Life

Sunday, January 24, 2021

Online Worship

“Where Can I Go?”

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

Jesus Shall Reign Tune: Duke Street, John Hatton

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 This week’s Psalm text brings home this message: we are in an intimate relationship with God. There is nowhere we go that God is not present—no state of our being that results in our being abandoned. God has knit us together, has woven us, knowing us from before our beginning. 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: Dear and Near God,
you never leave our side.
Open us this day to feeling and knowing your presence
deep in our hearts
so that we might show forth love with the same confidence,
offering your reign of right relationship on earth as it is in
heaven.

**People: We praise you for your close attention,
holding our lives together in care.
Amen.**

HYMN #351 I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry
New Century Hymnal (Black Hymnal)

**I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;
In a blaze of light you wandered off
to find where demons dwell.**

**When you heard the wonder of the Word
I was there to cheer you on;
You were raised to praise the living Lord,
to whom you now belong.
If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk 'till rising sun.**

**In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night,**

**complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in,
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been
with just one more surprise.**

**I was there to hear your morning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.**

Psalm Reading

Psalm 139: 1-18

Lukan Psalter translation

ADONAI, you've searched me and known me.
You know my sitting down and my rising up,
you discern my thoughts from afar.
You trace my journeys and my resting places;
and are acquainted with all of my ways.

Indeed, there is not a word on my lips;
but you, O God, know it altogether.
You press upon me, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
it is so high I cannot attain it!

Where can I go then from your Spirit,
Where can I flee from your presence?
If I climb up to heaven, you are there;
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
If I take the wings of the morning,
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
even there your hand will lead me,
and your right hand hold me fast.

If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me,
and the light around me turn to night,"
darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,

darkness and light to you are both alike.

You created my inmost being
and stitched me together in my mother's womb.
For all these mysteries I thank you—
for the wonder of myself,
for the wonder of your works—
my soul knows it well.
My frame was not hidden from you
while I was being made in that secret place,
knitted together in the depths of the earth;
your eyes saw my body even there.

All of my days
were written in your book,
all of them planned
before even the first of them came to be.

How precious your thoughts are to me, ADONAI!
How impossible to number them!
I could no more count them
than I could count the sand.
But suppose I could?
You would still be with me!

Reflections and Testimonies of Being Held

Pastor Kris and Friends

Vicki Mayk

Kerry Snyder

Jacob Roth

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

We come to our moment of “Selah”—that mysterious word found in the Psalms that invites us to pause. We will use an instrumental sound to remind us to take a pause, a breath. Settle your heart and know that you 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

Jacob Roth

[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 #107 Amazing Grace
Hymns from the Family of God (Gold Hymnal)

Amazing grace, How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now I am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come,
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far
And grace will lead me home.

Postlude

Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us Tune Bradbury,
William B. Bradbury

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION at 11:30am

Union United Church of Christ, Neffs, Pa
Aften Hamm, Consistory President presiding

Please log in or call in to our zoom meeting. There is a waiting room, please be patient until someone lets you into the meeting.

Please mute yourself once you are in the meeting. We may ask you your name in order to identify everyone present and be sure that we have a quorum. The agenda and other documents were emailed to you or will be available to see on your screen. Thank you for being a part of the work that we do as God's church.

Join Zoom Meeting Online

[https://zoom.us/j/98624524688?
pwd=OU54eG0zRXZ3V0xER1RNOHV4RUFqZz09](https://zoom.us/j/98624524688?pwd=OU54eG0zRXZ3V0xER1RNOHV4RUFqZz09)

Meeting ID: 986 2452 4688

Passcode: 354936

Call in by phone

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EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)	
Last Week	\$11,385
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	150lbs, \$22
Total YTD:	150 lbs, \$22

Christmas Mission
\$2,417.32

SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS SPONSORS:

Thank you to everyone for their love and generosity toward Union UCC's mission and ministry, especially during COVID. 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.