



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

All Hail the Power Tune: Coronation, Oliver Holden

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 “My one and only!” So many songs have utilized this phrase to express devoted love. This week we see that this tradition goes back all the way to the poets of the psalm tradition. This is a love psalm of trust in the “Holy One and Only” who is the rock and refuge in the midst of life that sometimes feels as fleeting as breath. We put our trust in the One who, 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: God of our devotion,
you are the one constant in life.

Open us this day to see the things that hold us in their grip
so that we might shed unnecessary distractions that keep
us from seeing
your reign on earth as it is in heaven.

**People: We praise you for being our rock,
holding our lives together in the ways that matter
most.
Amen.**

HYMN #1 For the Beauty of the Earth
Hymns for the Family of God (Gold Hymnal)

**For the Beauty of the earth
For the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies.**

**Lord of all, to Thee we raise,
This our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the beauty of each hour,
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,
Sun and moon, and stars of light.**

**Lord of all, to Thee we raise,
This our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above,**

For all gentle thoughts and mild.

**Lord of all, to Thee we raise,
This our hymn of grateful praise.**

Psalm Reading

Psalm 62: 5-12

Lukan Psalter translation

In God alone my soul finds rest,
for my deliverance comes from God,
who alone is my rock, my salvation,
my fortress:
I will never be shaken.

Only in God—my deliverance, my glory—
my refuge is God.
Trust in God always, my people;
pour out your hearts before God our refuge.

Humankind is but a breath,
mortals are just an illusion.
Put them on the scales and the balance
is thrown off:
they weigh less than a breath.

Do not trust in extortion,
or put false hopes in stolen goods;
do not set your heart on riches
even when they increase.

For God has said only one thing,
Twice have I heard it:
that power belongs to God:
Steadfast love is yours, ADONAI –
you repay all people according
to their deeds.

Reflections and Testimonies of Being Held

Pastor Kris and Friends

Mitchell Roth

Maria Beltz

Abby Hill

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

Ann Snyder

[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 2 How Great Thou Art

Hymns from the Family of God (Gold Hymnal)

**O Lord my God, When I in awesome wonder,
Consider all the worlds Thy Hands have made;
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.**

**Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!**

**When through the woods, and forest glades I
wander,
And hear the birds sign sweetly in the trees.
When I look down, from lofty mountain grandeur
And see the brook, and feel the gentle breeze.**

**Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!**

**When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration,
And then proclaim: "My God, how great Thou art!"**

**Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.**

**Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!**

Postlude

Just A Closer Walk Traditional

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EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)	
Last Week	\$5,690
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	lbs, \$35
Total YTD:	150 lbs, \$57

Christmas Mission
\$2,417.32

SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS SPONSORS:

In memory of Gordon Rothrock from daughters Lucille Kuhns, Leoma Kern, Lana Reitz and family

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.