



God is Holding Your Life

Sunday, February 14, 2021

Online Worship

“We Wait, We Hope, We Stay”

A Journey of Assurance for the New Year



[www.worshipdesignstudio.com/life](http://www.worshipdesignstudio.com/life)

**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.*

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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## **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**

I'll Fly Away

Albert E. Brumley

### **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** Today’s Psalm comes late in the Book and offers a glimpse of a time when the exiled outcasts are gathering back together and seeing their world built back up. We too, yearn for a re-gathering and a day when we sing our praises and play our instruments with abandon together again. We wait, we hope, we stay firm in our faith, knowing as our ancient ancestors did, that God is indeed 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: You are working to bind up the wounds of the world. Open us this day to be your hands and feet for a suffering people, so that we might make a difference right where we are, contributing to your reign on earth as it is in heaven.

**People: We praise you for the strength to persevere,  
holding our lives together in love.  
Amen.**

**HYMN #421 Lord, I Want to Be a Christian**  
Hymns for the Family of God (Gold Hymnal)

**1. Lord, I want to be a Christian  
In my heart, in my heart.  
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.  
In my heart, in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.**

**2. Lord, I want to be more loving  
In my heart, in my heart.  
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.**

**3. Lord, I want to be like Jesus**

**In my heart, in my heart.  
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.  
In my heart, in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.**

## **Psalm Reading**

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c  
*Lukan Psalter translation*

*Alleluia! How good it is to praise our God!  
How pleasant and how fitting to sing God's praise!*

*ADONAI rebuilds Jerusalem,  
and gathers Israel's exiles.  
God heals the brokenhearted,  
and binds up their wounds.*

*God knows the number of the stars  
and calls each one by name.  
Great is ADONAI, and mighty in power;  
there is no limit to God's wisdom.  
ADONAI lifts up the oppressed,  
and casts the corrupt to the ground.*

*Sing to our God with thanksgiving;  
sing praise with the harp to our God—  
who covers the heavens with clouds,  
who provides rain for the earth,  
who makes grass sprout on the mountains  
and herbs for the service of the people,  
who gives food to the cattle,  
and to the young ravens when they cry.*

*God does not thrill  
to the strength of the horse,  
or revel in the fleetness of humans.  
ADONAI delights in those  
who worship with reverence  
and put their hope in divine love.*

*Alleluia!*

## **Reflections and Testimonies of Being Held**

Pastor Kris and Friends

**Eric Minnich**

**Pastor Kayli**

**Pastor Patience**

### **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**

Let us rest for a moment and let a healing pause settle inside us. 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

**Julie Lane**

*[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**

### **February Mission-**

**Blanket Sunday and Souper Bowl Sunday:** Check donations may be made through the special envelope in the February newsletter or in any envelope. Checks made to "Union UCC" and please mark them "Blanket Sunday" (to help those facing emergencies) or "Souper Bowl Sunday" (to support the Lehigh Conference of Churches with housing and food needs) and mail to the church. Cans of soup can be dropped at the church on Saturdays or Sundays and will go to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank.

### **Easter Mission-**

**Lehigh Conference of Church and the Parkland Cares Food Pantry:** Check donations may be made through the "Easter Mission" envelope in your envelope pack or in any envelope marked Easter Mission. Checks to "Union UCC" and mail them to church.

Give online at <http://www.unionucc.org/resources/giving-and-sponsorship/ways-to-give/> for Easter Mission.

**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

**Invitation 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.**

**L** Holy and Living One, as we gather to break bread once again, break us open to your love, to your peace, to your presence, to your transformative power. In the name of the One who invites us time and again, Jesus the Christ.

## COMMUNION PRAYER

**L** May God be with you

**C** And also with you!

**L** Lift up your hearts

**C** We lift them up to God!

**L** Let us give thanks to God most high.

**C** It is right to give God thanks and praise!



**L** Gift of Life, Creator of All That Is, You have breathed life into us, filled our emptiness, loved us through our resistance.

And so we gather and give thanks in this moment.  
We stop so we may listen, we breathe so we may live,  
we open so we may love.

**ALL: Holy , holy, holy Lord, God of power and  
might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the  
highest.**

### **\*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** We who are many are one body, one loaf, rising in Spirit together. Even if we cannot be physically in the same space, we are one in love.  
We are one in the grace of Christ broken open for us.

While we have many cups, God's love is poured upon us from the one cup of salvation.  
It is in this sharing beyond all time and space that we are drawn close, that we are made whole,  
that we are made free.

As you are served by those with you,  
or served by your own hand,  
know that the hand that serves you is the hand of all  
Christ's Body,  
through mystical union with the Divine.  
You are not alone.

## **Sharing the Bread and the Cup**

① Take and eat, take and drink.

## **Musical Offering**

Open The Eyes of My Heart      Choral Setting by Jack  
Schrader, Paul Baloche

**High School Choir: Emily Bachl, George NeNardo, Naomi  
Henninger, Amanda Lane, Olivia Rice**

## **\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

① God of all that is too deep for words,  
we give you thanks that, at this table of grace,  
you offer your holiness, your steadfast love.  
Open us often to your *Selah*, your pause,  
to hear the needs of your people.

We pray this in the name of the Host of this Table,  
Jesus the Christ. Amen.

## **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 #173 You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore**  
New Century Hymnal (Black Hymnal)

**1. You have come down to the lakeshore  
Seeking neither the wise nor the wealthy,  
But only asking for me to follow.**

**Sweet Lord, you have looked into my eyes,  
Kindly smiling, you've called out my name.  
On the sand I've abandoned my small boat;  
Now with you, I will seek other seas.**

**2. You know full well what I have, Lord;  
Neither treasure nor weapons for conquest,  
Just these my fishnets and will for working.**

**Sweet Lord, you have looked into my eyes,  
Kindly smiling, you've called out my name.  
On the sand I've abandoned my small boat;  
Now with you, I will seek other seas.**

**3. You need my hands, my exhaustion,  
Working love for the rest of the weary,  
A love that's willing to go on loving.**

**Sweet Lord, you have looked into my eyes,  
Kindly smiling, you've called out my name.  
On the sand I've abandoned my small boat;  
Now with you, I will seek other seas.**

**4. You who have fished other waters;  
You, the longing of souls that are yearning;  
O loving Friend, you have come to call me.**

**Sweet Lord, you have looked into my eyes,  
Kindly smiling, you've called out my name.  
On the sand I've abandoned my small boat;  
Now with you, I will seek other seas.**

## **Postlude**

Holy, Holy, Holy

Tune: NICAEA, Dykes

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# **EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY**

<b>Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)</b>	
Last Week	\$6,128
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>	

<b>2021 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food</b>	
Last Week:	499lbs,
Total YTD:	649 lbs, \$87

<b>Blanket Sunday</b>
<b>\$847.50</b>

## **SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS SPONSORS:**

**Holding you in my heart and prayers, 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.*