



God is Holding Your Life

Sunday, February 7, 2021

Online Worship

“Whole Heart Hallelujah”

A Journey of Assurance for the New Year



WORSHIP
DESIGN STUDIO
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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.

**Today: Welcome Cub Pack 57 and Boy Scout Troop 57–
Look for pictures in the service**

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PRELUDE

In Christ Alone Andrew Craig and Donald A. Koch

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 One mode of poetry in the Psalms is all-out praise and thanksgiving, such as the one for today. We also find praise even in Psalms of lament and complaint because “God is good all the time and all the time God is good!” Life is not always good, but when we engage in gratitude, we remember the evidence of God at work in our lives and we remember that indeed, God is holding our lives, even now.

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: Amazing God,

You do wonderful things—big and small—every day.

Open us this day to recognize the miracles of life all around us so that we might stay resilient and ready to create your reign on earth as it is in heaven.

People: We praise you for your continued good works, holding our lives together each day.

Amen.

HYMN #370 O God, Our Help in Ages Past
Hymns for the Family of God (Gold Hymnal)

**1. O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.**

**2. Under the shadow of Thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defense is sure.**

**3. Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.**

**4. A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.**

**5. O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last,
And our eternal home.**

Psalm Reading

Psalm 111

Lukan Psalter translation

Alleluia!

I will thank you, ADONAI, with all my heart
in the meeting of the just and their assembly.
Great are your works,
to be pondered by all who love them.

Majestic and glorious are your works,
and your justice stands firm forever.
You make us remember your wonders—
you are compassion and love.

You give food to those who revere you,
keeping your Covenant ever in mind.
You reveal to your people the power of your actions
by giving them the lands of the nations
as their inheritance.

The works of your hands are truth and justice,
and all your precepts are sure,
standing firm forever and ever,
and carried out uprightly and faithfully.

You have sent deliverance to your people
and established your Covenant forever.
Your Name is holy and awe-inspiring!

Reverence for ADONAI
is the beginning of wisdom—
those who have it prove themselves wise.
Your praise will last forever!

Reflections and Testimonies of Being Held

Pastor Kris and Friends

John Harting

Susan Glosan

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

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.**

Music Offering

Rainbow Hillsong Kids

Kids Choir: Siera Adcock, Lucas Bastidas, Brooklyn Hoppes, Lincoln Hoppes, Connor Maxwell, Lucas Maxwell, Reagan Minnich, Cael Vermuelen, Hunter Vermuelen

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>.

Boy Scout Sunday– Celebrating Cub Pack and Troop 57

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 #87 Leaning on the Everlasting Arms
Hymns for the Family of God (Gold Hymnal)

**1. What a fellowship, what a joy divine
Leaning on the everlasting arms
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine
Leaning on the everlasting arms**

**Leaning, leaning
Safe, and secure from all alarms
Leaning, leaning
Leaning on the everlasting arms**

**2. Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim's way
Leaning on the everlasting arms
Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day
Leaning on the everlasting arms**

**Leaning, leaning
Safe, and secure from all alarms
Leaning, leaning
Leaning on the everlasting arms**

**3. What have I to dread, what have I to fear
Leaning on the everlasting arms
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine
Leaning on the everlasting arms**

**Leaning, leaning
Safe, and secure from all alarms
Leaning, leaning
Leaning on the everlasting arms**

Postlude

Redeemed, How I Love to Proclaim It Fanny J. Crosby,
William J. Kirkpatrick

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EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)	
Last Week	\$3,886.36
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>	

2021 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Last Week:	lbs, \$30
Total YTD:	150 lbs, \$87

Blanket Sunday
\$540

SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS SPONSORS:

In honor of Mission Committee by Phil and Julie Wehr

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.