



Sunday, May 16, 2021
“Gone Up With a Shout: Clap Your Hands”
Seventh Sunday of Easter (Ascension Sunday)

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.

Ushers: **Deborah Wenner, Eric Minnich, Phil Wehr, Dixie Gross**
Sound: **Pat Sorg**

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Thank you for wearing a mask and practicing 6 feet of social distancing.

As you arrive, please visit the welcome tables to:

- 1. Sign In – we will verify your name and phone number.**
- 2. Get a bulletin of the service or you can view it on your phone by scanning the QR Code.**
- 3. Share your offerings.**

PRELUDE

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Thomas A. Dorsey

WELCOME

LNo matter who you are or where you are on life's journey and faith's journey

CYou are welcome here.

GATHERING OUR STRENGTH

Threshold

Leader: As Jesus prepares to leave the disciples, he opens their minds and blesses them. The result after he ascends is their return to Jerusalem with great joy and a desire for continually worshiping and blessing God in the temple. What happens when the “eyes of OUR hearts are enlightened?” We know the hope that we have been called to. As we wait for the Spirit with hope, we celebrate with abandon because we have no other ruler than the One who reigns with love and justice.

**Dare to dance with dreamers, sing their song,
Dare to dance their stories, sing out strong.
Dare to dance with freedom your whole life long,
Dare to dance again!**

Leader: Dancing changes us: it transforms us and brings us to life, awakens our senses. Imagine the dreams and the heartbeat and the life stirring in Jesus and his disciples as he readied them for this next chapter of ministry.

Dare to dance with dreamers, sing their song,

**Dare to dance their stories, sing out strong.
Dare to dance with freedom your whole life long,
Dare to dance again!**

Leader: This is the call!

Ready yourselves for new life.

People: We lift up our heads to meet the day.

Get ready to be the hands and feet of Jesus in this world.

We fortify our hearts with compassion and action.

Even when rain sets in, open those umbrellas of gratitude and set out anyway.

For we are called to dance again!

***HYMN Hymn #257 (Black Hymnal) Alleluia! Gracious Jesus!**

1. Alleluia! Gracious Jesus! Yours the scepter, yours the throne! Alleluia! Yours the triumph, yours the victory alone! Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood; Jesus, out of every nation you've redeemed us by your blood
2. Alleluia! Not as orphans are we left in sorrow now. Alleluia! You are near us; faith believes, no questions how. Though the clow from sign received you when the forty days were o're, Shall our hearts forget your promise "I am with you evermore"
3. Alleluia! Christ eternal, nothing can disrupt your reign; Alleluia! Born of Mary, heaven and earth are your domain. Human life you fully entered, tending those we count the least, Serving both as priest and victim in the eucharistic feast.

Prayer

Leader: Holy One, Justice-Seeker, Lover of Creation –

Help us to put on our dancing shoes

so that we can be the hands and feet of Jesus.

Come and dance with us, engage with us, as we seek you

–

so that we can be risen with Christ and in Christ.

Be with us now, we pray. Amen.

Affirming the Peace Among Us

The peace of the risen Christ is with you!

And also with you!

You are invited to turn to the people around you and wave as a sign of graceful greetings this day.

LEARNING THE STEPS

A Story for All Ages- live in the grove with Mrs. Puia

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Names of Children and Parents and Sponsors:

John Stephen Gacesa IV – Carol (Fella) Gacesa and John Gacesa III

Sponsors: Joseph Gacesa, Emily Fella, Allison Fella

QUESTIONS TO PARENTS AND SPONSORS

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

C: We promise our love, support and care.

ACT OF BAPTISM

GIFTS AND BLESSING

A STORY FOR THE AGES

First Reading: Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

What profit hath he that worketh in that wherein he laboureth? I have seen the travail, which God hath given to the sons of men to be exercised in it.

He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end.

Second Reading: John 2:1-12

On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."

"Woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come."

His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons.

Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim.

Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet."

They did so, and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now."

What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

After this he went down to Capernaum with his mother and

brothers and his disciples. There they stayed for a few days.

MESSAGE

“Did Jesus Ever Dance?”

Rev. Allan Kramer-Moyer

Dance Offering “Got It in You” Rachael Bath

Holding back the flood in this skyscraper town
You gave all your sweat and blood
Now you think you’re going to drown
You can’t tell that you’re bigger than the sea
that you’re sinking in
And you don’t know what you got
But you got it at your fingertips

Ohh, you got it in you

Ohh, you got it in you

When the lights go out and leave you standing in the dark
No one ever told you this would be so hard
I know you think your fire is burning out
But I still see you shining through
You got it in you

Not everything you hear should sound like the truth
Cause nobody else’s words can define you
Maybe you don’t see it but you’re quicker than the world can spin
You should know what you got
Cause you got it at your fingertips

When the lights go out and leave you standing in the dark
No one ever told you this would be so hard
I know you think your fire is burning out
But I still see you shining through

You got it in you

I know you think your fire is burning out
But I still see you shining through

You got it in you

You got it in you

You got it in you

Reflection

Pamela Bath

Special Music

“I Hope You Dance” Blake Hoppes

THE BODY MOVES IN RESPONSE

Prayers of the People

“Teach Me to Dance” [refrain only]

**Teach me to dance to the beat of your heart,
teach me to move in the power of your Spirit,
teach me to [move] in the light of your presence,
teach me to dance to the beat of your heart.**

Leader: For the beauty of the world in all its diversity, we give you thanks, O God.

Leader: *Let us pray together...*

People: **May our gratitude to you fill our days.**

Leader: We need your healing, O Holy One,
for our troubled planet, for our nation,
for all who are struggling in body, mind,
relationships, and spirit.

We remember those who are suffering...

Leader: *Let us pray together...*

People: **Come, O God, and restore our lives.**

**Teach me to pray in the power of Easter,
following Christ in a life resurrected,
teach me to act with compassion and justice,
teach me to dance with the beat of your heart.**

Leader: Be with each of us now.
May the dance of your Spirit ever call us
to engage with you and with the needs around us.
Lead us; guide us; surround and fill us.

Leader: *Let us pray together...*

People: **Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

**Teach me to love with your heart of compassion,
teach me to trust in the word of your promise,
teach me to hope in the day of your coming,
teach me to dance to the beat of your heart.**

Prayer of Jesus (Unison)

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.**

Offering Our Resources and our Energy

Leader: Next week is the last week of our Easter Season series, for this season ends with Pentecost, when the flames of the spirit danced within all people. We are so grateful for the ways in which you have continued throughout this difficult time of being separated. You have continued to support and give life and movement to the ministries of this church. You are the hands and feet of Christ now in the world. Let us receive our offering.

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>.

Music Offering

How Can I keep From Singing Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash,
and Matt Redman, Arr. Mary McDonald

**High School Choir: Emily Bachl, George DeNardo,
Amanda Lane, Olivia Rice**

STEPPING OUT

***HYMN #327 (Black Hymnal) Jesus Loves Me**

1. Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong, they are weak but he is strong.

**Refrain: Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes Jesus loves me!
Yes Jesus loves me! The Bible Tells me so!**

2. Jesus loves me! This I know, as he loved so long ago,
Taking children on his knee, saying "Let them come to
me."

Refrain

3. Jesus loves me! Still today, walking with me on my
way,
Wanting as a friend to give light and love to all who live

Refrain

Benediction

Leader: The poet Rumi invites us with these words...

"Dance, when you're broken open.
Dance, if you've torn the bandage off.
Dance in the middle of the fighting.
Dance in your blood.
Dance, when you're perfectly free."

May it be so as we go in peace.

And may the Loving God,
Risen Christ,
and Dancing Spirit

fill you with all you need
for the days ahead.

And all God's people said,
"Amen!"

Postlude

What a Friend We Have in Jesus
Charles C. Converse

Joseph M. Scriven,

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EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)	
Last Week	\$6958.00
Calendar 2021 (Jan.-April)	\$125,842.00
Calendar 2020 (Jan.-April)	\$121,255.00
Change from Last Year	+3.8%
Budget (July-April)	\$355,100.00
Actual (July-April)	\$338,935.00.
Giving vs. Budget	-4.6%
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>	

2021 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Last Week:	250lbs
Total YTD:	2,576 lbs, \$212

SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS SPONSORS:

For Pastor Kris in honor of her service, healing presence, loving kindness. From Ann Snyder

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.