



**Sunday, May 30, 2021**  
**Worship in the Grove/ Memorial Sunday**

**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](http://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.*

Ushers: **Donna Christman, Ron Pope, Todd McCoy, Jason Klinger, Daniel Haftl**  
Sound: **Mike Baer**

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**Thank you for wearing a mask and practicing 6 feet of social distancing. Please wear your mask while you are signing in and walking throughout the grove and around others.**

**You are welcome to remove your mask when you arrive at your seat with your household members.**

**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.**

**If you are staying in your car, turn your FM Radio to 102.3 FM to listen to the service.**

## **PRELUDE**

My Country Tis of Thee

Samuel Francis Smith

**Instrumentalists: Andy Hill, Garet Hill, Cameron Kuntz, Mitchell Roth, and Justin Bower**

**Director: Mitchell Roth**

## **GREETING**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**①** No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey and faith's journey

**②** You are welcome here.

**\*OPENING HYMN For The Beauty of the Earth (Gold Hymnal 1) [3 verses]**

1. 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
2. For the wonder 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.
3. 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.

**\*Call to Worship** (~ from *On Earth as in Heaven: Praying for Peace*, MCC Peace Sunday Packet 2008)

Leader: In a world filled with violence and war,

**ALL: we gather together to celebrate the promise of peace.**

Leader: In a world filled with tyranny and oppression,

**ALL: we gather together to celebrate the promise of justice for all.**

Leader: In a world filled with hunger and greed,

**ALL: we gather together to celebrate the promise of plenty for all.**

Leader: Our hope is in the name of the Almighty God,

**ALL: the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of heaven and earth.**

## Prayer

### Prayer (unison)

(from the Week of Prayer for World Peace, 1978)

**ALL:** Holy One, we pray for the power to be gentle,  
the strength to be forgiving,  
the patience to be understanding,  
and the endurance to accept the consequences  
of holding to what we believe to be right.

May we put our trust in the power of good to overcome evil  
and the power of love to overcome hatred.

We pray for the vision to see and the faith to believe  
in a world emancipated from violence.

Help us to devote our whole life, thought and energy  
to the task of making peace,  
praying always for the inspiration and the power  
to fulfill the destiny for which we were created. Amen.

## Reading of Scripture

Psalm 29

1 Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord  
glory and strength.

- 2 Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name; worship the Lord in holy splendor.
- 3 The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over mighty waters.
- 4 The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.
- 5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.
- 6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.
- 7 The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.
- 8 The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- 9 The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare; and in his temple all say, "Glory!"
- 10 The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.
- 11 May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace!

### **John 3:1-21**

- 1 Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews.
- 2 He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God."
- 3 Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above."
- 4 Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?"
- 5 Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.
- 6 What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.
- 7 Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.'
- 8 The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."
- 9 Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?"
- 10 Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you

do not understand these things?

**11** "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony.

**12** If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?

**13** No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.

**14** And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,

**15** that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

**16** "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

**17** "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

**18** Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

**19** And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil.

**20** For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed.

**21** But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

## **MESSAGE**

**Mysterious Encounter**

**Rev. Patience Stevenson**

### **Pastoral Prayer**

#### **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.**

## **Donate to God's Mission and Ministry at UNION UCC**

**Outside Worship Offering** – we will not be collecting your offerings during the service. Please plan to share them at the welcome table as you arrive or as you leave worship.

Thank you for being the church with us!

**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-mentorship/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**

Lord, Lead Us On      Joseph M. Martin, Incorporating tune: He Leadeth Me  
Adult Choir

## **A TRIBUTE TO THOSE WHO SERVED**

The congregation responded to the invitation to submit names of those who died during military service. We remember all who served, but on the Memorial Day, especially those who died in military service and whose names are listed here:

PVT Larry W. Bachman, U.S. Army  
Ensign Vernon G. Kern, U.S. Navy  
W-O David P. Kuhns, U.S. Army-Air Force  
SP4 Larry R. Lalan, U.S. Army  
Richard Wehr, U.S. Army

All unknown soldiers who gave their lives in service

**PRAYER FOR MEMORIAL DAY** By Maren C. Tirabassi

**ALL: God, we come with Taps in our hearts  
remembering those who have died for others,  
soldiers, sailors, air corps, in this country and others,  
remembering those who risk life for others,  
coast guard, firefighter, law enforcement,  
both near and far away,  
remembering those who go forth  
in emergency response, disaster relief,  
and aid to victims of war,  
remembering those who witness for justice  
in the face of opposition,  
and remembering our own losses –  
some, fresh wounds,  
some, long-familiar sadnesses.  
Day is come, not just one,  
but a year full of dawns  
in the east.  
While some rest, we are blest,  
given peace. Amen.**

**L** We remember that Memorial Day began when Confederate war widows decorated the far-from-home graves of Union soldiers.

**C** We remember – and pray for those who grieve on all sides of a conflict.

**L** We remember that Memorial Day also began at Charleston's Washington Race Course when newly freed slaves honored prisoners of war.

**C** We remember – and pray for people everywhere who are seeking freedom or living with the loss of freedom.

**L** We remember that May 30 was chosen for Memorial Day because it was one day that did not commemorate a particular battle.

**C** We remember — and pray for a time when every day is an anniversary of peace.

**L** We remember ANZAC Day, when Australians and New Zealanders memorialize not only those in combat, but

nurses, stretcher bearers, conscientious objectors, and those who bear home front burdens.

**☉ We remember – and pray to be aware of the gifts of many in our common causes.**

**🕒** We remember Christmas Eve truces and paper cranes, amnesties and poppies, folded flags and the desperate need of veterans for gratitude made real in support.

**☉ We remember — and pray for a memorializing, not confined to a holiday but alive in the spirits of young and old, enlisted and civilian, brand new Americans and those with deep hometown-roots, people of every faith, no faith and people willing to leave their politics outside the door in order to embrace everyone. God, be with us as we remember. Amen.**

## **Benediction**

(adapted from *Christian Worship Resources for the Children's Sabbath*, on the **Children's Defense Fund** website. [http://www.childrensdefense.org/child-research-data-publications/data/2013-sabbath-manual/documents/sabbath-2013\\_christian.pdf](http://www.childrensdefense.org/child-research-data-publications/data/2013-sabbath-manual/documents/sabbath-2013_christian.pdf))

**🕒** L: Jesus taught us, “Blessed are the peacemakers.” May God grant you the vision, strength, and courage to proclaim God’s message of peace whether welcome or unwelcome, for the sake of God’s beloved children.

May almighty God bless you, and give you strength as you go forward into the world as a peacemaker. Amen.

## **Closing Hymn** A Song of Peace #682 Gold

1. This is my song, O God of all the nations,  
A song of peace for lands a far and mine;  
This is my home, the country where my heart is;  
Here are my hopes my dreams my holy shrine;  
But other hearts in other lands are beating  
With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine

2. My country’s skies are bluer than the ocean,  
And sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine;



But other lands have sunlight too and clover,  
And skies are everywhere as blue as mine  
O hear my song, Though God of all the nations  
A song of peace for their land and for mine.

3. This is my prayer, O Lord of all earth's kingdoms,  
Thy kingdom come on earth Thy will be done;  
Let Christ be lifted up 'til all men serve him,  
And hearts united learn to live as one:  
O hear my prayer, Thou God of all the nations  
Myself I give thee let thy will be done.

4. This is my song, O God of all the nations,  
A song of peace for men in every place;  
And yet I pray for my beloved country  
The reassurance of continued grace:  
Lord help us find our oneness in the Savior  
In spite of differences of age and race.

## **Postlude**

Sweet By and By            Joseph P. Webster

# **EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY**

<b>Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)</b>	
Last Week	\$5,298.00
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>	

<b>2021 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food</b>	
Last	190lbs, \$25
Total YTD:	2,766 lbs, \$292

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

*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.*