

the inn

HOUSING THE HOLY



**Sunday, November 28, 2021**

**8am and 10:30am**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent & Communion**

**Making Room (Hope)**

The pandemic has laid bare, and widened, economic disparity locally and globally. As we enter the Advent season, how can our churches become houses where the Holy will be born anew—offering respite, sustenance and care, opening the doors ever wider to those seeking shelter from the onslaught of life? No one church can do it all, but each can do something. As we study the biblical prophets that call us to care for our neighbors and “make room in the inn,” the lonely and frightened spaces within us are filled with the light of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

**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)

***One of our core values as a church is extravagant welcome and hospitality. We believe in God’s inclusive love. No matter who you are or where you on life’s journey, you are welcome here.***

Lay Reader: 8:00 Suzanne Schneider, 10:30 Eric Minnich  
Ushers: 8am: Cliff James, Carol James, Patricia Warmkessel  
10:30am : Carrington Smith, Jim Lane, Jason Klinger, Susan Smith, Al Stubbmann, Teri Fekula, Karen Misera  
Sound: Karl Klinger  
Acolyte: Miranda Brown

**\*Please stand in body or spirit**

**PRELUDE**

Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow      Spiritual  
Blake Hoppes

**Welcome and Announcements**

**We Open the Door**

Hope Waits for Us at Advent      Amanda Udis-Kessler

Leader: The pandemic has laid bare, and widened, economic disparity locally and globally. As we enter the Advent season, how can our church become a house where the Holy will be born anew—offering respite, sustenance and care, opening the doors ever wider to those seeking shelter from the onslaught of life? No one church can do it all, but each can do something. As we study the biblical prophets that call us to care for our neighbors and “make room in the inn,” the lonely and frightened spaces within us are filled with the light of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

**Choir/Solo:**

Hope waits for us at Advent  
Hope waits for us to trust.  
Hope waits for our commitment  
to a land that’s kind and just.  
In this time of preparation  
for the work of co-creation,  
for the birthing of a world  
that heals the ones in pain.  
Hope is born in us again!

Leader: Today we offer the Light of Hope to illumine the  
Door of Welcome.

May this light shine in our hearts, in our lives, and in our  
church.

May Hope awaken us to possibilities and lead us to greater  
hospitality.

There *IS* room in this Inn, a House for the Holy.

**ALL:**  
Hope waits for us at Advent  
Hope waits for us to trust.  
Hope waits for our commitment  
to a land that's kind and just.  
In this time of preparation  
for the work of co-creation,  
for the birthing of a world  
that heals the ones in pain.  
Hope is born in us again!

### **The Peace**

Leader: The [Hope] of Christ be with you!

**ALL: And also with you!**

Leader: As we rise and stand in body or spirit for the first song, I invite you to pass a "wave" of peace to the people around you (and the people worshipping at home)!

**\*Carol**

**#169 Gold Hymnal O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (verses 1-3) (Hymns for the Family of God)**

**10:30 Worship Children's Time**

**Children's Church**

**Pastors invite children forward to leave with Ms. Tiffany for Children's Church (in the basement).**

**Congregation/ All:**

**Parents and Families – your children will return to you in the sanctuary by the end of worship.**

**If the timing doesn't match and worship is longer than Children's Church, please meet them in Room 7 in the Basement (the Preschool Rooms).**

# Song: This, This is Where Children Belong

Voice

F C/E Dm B♭

This, this is where child-ren be - long,

3 F/A Gm Am/C C

Wel-comed as part of the wor - ship - ping throng.

5 F Gm Am B♭

Wat - er, God's Word, bread and cup, pray'r and song,

7 F/C B♭ F

This is where child - ren be - long.

Detailed description: The image shows a musical score for a voice part. It consists of four staves of music in a 3/8 time signature with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The lyrics are written below the notes. Chord symbols are placed above the staff. The first staff starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are 'This, this is where child-ren be - long,'. The second staff starts with a measure rest of 3 measures, then continues with 'Wel-comed as part of the wor - ship - ping throng.'. The third staff continues with 'Wat - er, God's Word, bread and cup, pray'r and song,'. The fourth staff continues with 'This is where child - ren be - long.' and ends with a double bar line.

## Music Offering 8am

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing with Angels We Have Heard on High” Choral Setting by Jay Althouse

## Heritage Choir

### First Reading

Jeremiah 33: 14-16 (CEB)

The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfill my gracious promise with the people of Israel and Judah. In those days and at that time, I will raise up a righteous branch from David’s line, who will do what is just and right in the land. In those days, Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is what he will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

### Second Reading

Psalm 25: 4-5 (CEB)

Make your ways known to me, Lord;

teach me your paths.  
Lead me in your truth—teach it to me—  
because you are the God who saves me.  
I put my hope in you all day long.

## **Message**

Making Room for Hope

Pastor Kris Snyder-Samuelson

## **Prayers of the People**

Make of My Heart a Stable Amanda Udis-Kessler

**ALL: (sung)**  
**Make of my heart a stable,**  
**a house for the holy,**  
**a warm and sturdy place**  
**for [hope] to live and grow.**

Leader: In this moment we open the doors of our hearts to  
honesty before God  
about what we've done and left undone that created less hope in  
a hurting world.

Let us breathe out this regret...  
and breathe in the life-giving, for-giving Spirit of God...  
and out again with the Peace of Christ...

**ALL: (sung)**  
**Make of my life a stable,**  
**a house for the holy,**  
**a warm and sturdy place**  
**for [hope] to live and grow.**

Leader: In this moment we open the doors of our lives to the call  
of the Spirit,

inviting us to become more than we can ask or imagine.

Let us breathe out our fear...  
and breathe in the courage of the Spirit of God...  
and out again, with the Peace of Christ...

**ALL: (sung)**  
**Make of our church a stable,**  
**a house for the holy,**

**a warm and sturdy place  
for [hope] to live and grow.**

Leader: In this moment we open the doors of this church, filling it with the compassion of Christ for all those who are struggling. We remember and pray for...

... those who are suffering economic hardship, and insecurity in basic needs; may abundance be shared.

... those who are suffering mentally, finding it difficult to cope; may paths open and hope return.

... those who are suffering illness or injury; may healing abound.

.... those who are suffering loneliness and isolation; may companionship and solace arrive.

... those who are suffering discrimination, fear and violence; may they know respect, respite, and safety.

May the Advent of Compassion be born in us,  
reside within us,  
move outward from us,  
to meet the needs of the world,  
making a house for the Holy that is each and every child of God.

We pray this in the name of Jesus, Amen.

**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 form at <http://www.unionucc.org/egive.pdf>

and send to [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>.

**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!

### **A Story of Innkeeping: Offering**

Leader: The Bible doesn't actually mention an Innkeeper in the story of Jesus' birth. But this popular notion is alive in our imaginations. Sometimes the Innkeeper gets a bad rap, as if providing substandard accommodations for a family about to go through the birthing process. But what if we saw the innkeeper as someone who, with a full house, thought literally "outside the box" to solve a problem? What if we endeavored to do the same to provide ministry, to "house the Holy" in ways we have not yet imagined? This Advent season we will offer some stories to stir our imagination and stoke the possibilities for our own hospitality.

### **Celebration of Holy Communion**

#### **Invitation**

Leader: Everyone is welcome to this meal of love and grace. You should have received communion elements when you arrived at the welcome table with a cracker and grape juice, or if you are joining us from home, we invite you to grab a piece of bread or a cracker and some juice/wine or water.

Leader: The Holy One be with you

**ALL: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts

**ALL: We lift them up to our God.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

**ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you,

Birthing God, creator of heaven and earth.

You formed us in our mother's womb, house of the holy,  
growing us in your image.

Our hearts and lungs became a place of opening and  
welcoming,

doors for the Spirit of Life that you breathed into us.

We have not always understood ourselves as sacred  
creation,

a place for the dwelling of the Holy inside of us.

We have not always seen that in others.

When we turn away from each other and from you,  
your love remains steadfast.

You deliver us from the captivity of isolation and fear,

make covenant to be our steadfast, indwelling God,

and continue to speak to us through prophetic utterance,  
in the Spirit and through the people.

And so,

with your people on earth

and all the company of heaven

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**ALL: (spoken) 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.**

Leader: In the midst of a time of despair, oppression,  
division, and fear,

your gestation in the house of a holy womb—  
through an unlikely midwife of salvific power—  
brought Jesus, the Christ, into this world.

Into The Inn of simple means

came a life dedicated and anointed by the Spirit

to preach good news to the poor,

to proclaim release to the captives



and recovering of sight to the blind,  
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,  
and to announce that the time had come  
when you would save your people.

A common birth for common people,  
he healed the sick, fed the hungry,  
and sat in houses at table with those who suffer,  
and those who perpetuated suffering,  
laying bare complicity and compassion.

His baptism, ministry, death, and resurrection  
gave the blueprints for the building of church community,  
and rejection of slavery to sin and death.  
You made a new covenant with us  
to be midwives, by water and the Spirit,  
birthing more hope, more peace, more joy, more love in  
this world,  
making more room in this house, at this table, for all.

When the Lord Jesus ascended,  
he promised to be with us always,  
in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

### **JESUS' WORDS AT HIS LAST SUPPER**

Leader: In another house, on another night—  
the night in which he gave himself up for us—  
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,  
gave it to his disciples, and said:  
“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me.”

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 blood of the new covenant,  
poured out for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me.”

And so,  
in remembrance of your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,  
we offer ourselves as a holy and living sacrifice,  
in union with Christ's offering for us,  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**ALL: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

## **BLESSING**

Leader: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,  
and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Open our hearts in and through this act,  
stripping away any excuse or fearful hesitation,  
so that we will open our doors to the world  
as the body of Christ, redeemed by his love.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,  
one with each other,  
and one in ministry to all the world.  
**Amen.**

## **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.**

## **SHARING THE MEAL**

① The gifts of God for the people of God.

① Take and eat. Take and drink. Amen.

## **MUSIC OFFERING**

Angels Through the Night

Philip Keveren

Julie Wehr

### **Closing Carol**

Leader: Each week of this series we will close out with a Christmas Carol. Yes, Advent is not yet the birth of Christ. However, as we prepare our homes and this house for the Holy, we live in the “already and not yet.” We already know “the rest of the story” AND YET we have not seen the fulfillment of a time when suffering ends. Today we sing “O Little Town of Bethlehem,” a carol written by Phillips Brooks in 1865 after a horseback ride between Jerusalem and Bethlehem on Christmas Eve.

An original verse not included in our hymnals is especially poignant for our worship theme:

“Where children pure and happy  
Pray to the blessed Child,  
Where misery cries out to thee,  
Son of the Mother mild;  
Where charity stands watching  
And faith holds wide the door,  
The dark night wakes, the glory breaks,  
And Christmas comes once more.”

Let us remember that it was in a little and unassuming town where the Holy was housed. We too can offer light and hope and a place where “faith holds wide the door,” even and especially in our little town.

**Carol #178 O Little Town of Bethlehem (all verses) Gold Hymnal (Hymns for the Family of God)**

### **Benediction**

May God’s Door of Welcome  
swing open in your heart and in your life.

May Christ’s humble first dwelling  
remind you of the plenty you already know.

And may the Spirit lead you into  
more possibility and hospitality than you can imagine,  
making room in The Inn for all.

May it be so for you.  
May it be so for us.  
May it be so for this church.  
Amen.

## **Postlude**

The Holly and the Ivy

Traditional

**Blake Hoppes**

Thank you to our team of angels and elves for their work in decorating the church for Christmas: Kathy Bonsell, Claire Kern, Deb Topp, Deb Wenner, Tiffany Lakatosh, Christian Ed Committee, Worship Committee – Susan Glosan, Edie Fella, Ron Pope, Dan Haftl, Julie & Phil Wehr, Eric & Pam Minnich family, Pastors Kayli and Kris.

# **EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY**

<b>Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)</b>	
Last Week	\$9,099.00
Calendar 2021 (Jan.- Oct.)	\$302,292.00
Calendar 2020 (Jan.- Oct.)	\$295,013.00
Change from Last Year	+2.5%
Budget (July-Oct.)	\$119,270.00
Actual (July-Oct.)	\$115,293.00
Giving vs. Budget	-6.3%
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>	

<b>Attendance Last Week</b>	
8:00 am	<b>46</b>
10:30 am (includes children)	<b>78</b>
Children's Church	<b>18</b>

<b>2021 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:</b>	
Last Week:	
Total YTD:	5,196 lbs, \$647

## **Presentations to the Glory of God**

### ***Spread the Good News:***

*Be a sponsor for \$20, send to Union UCC through your offering envelope or online marked Spread the Good News or \$8 for Children's Bulletin.*

*Contact Marissa to sign up for a certain date or to sponsor in honor or memory of someone.*

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