

the inn

HOUSING THE HOLY



**Sunday, December 12, 2021**  
**8am and 10:30am**  
**3rd Sunday of Advent**  
**How Much Is Enough? - Joy**

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

Ushers: 8am: Tom Anderson, Linda Anderson, Larry Todd

10:30am : Deidre Bilger, Carol James, Randy Bilger, Ruth Ruch, Janice Metzger, Julie Johnson, Todd McCoy

Sound: Karl Klinger

Acolyte:

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

**PRELUDE**

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentleman Traditional  
Blake Hoppes

**Welcome and Announcements**

**We Open the Door**

Hope Waits for Us at Advent      Amanda Udis-Kessler

Leader: As John baptized new converts, he invited them to live with “changed hearts and lives.” When asked how to do that, his answers all point to making sure no one is cheated or left without the basic necessities of life, including the right to not be harassed. A full life of joy, which the prophet Isaiah describes as an everflowing spring, is the birthright of all children of God. May we act to make it so.

**Choir/Solo:**  
**Joy waits for us at Advent**  
**Joy waits for us to sing.**  
**Joy waits for our amazement**  
**at the grace in everything.**  
**In this time of preparation**  
**for the work of co-creation,**  
**for the birthing of a world**  
**where wonder is restored.**  
**Joy is born in us once more!**

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

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

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

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

**ALL:**  
Joy waits for us at Advent  
Joy waits for us to sing.  
Joy waits for our amazement  
at the grace in everything.  
In this time of preparation  
for the work of co-creation,  
for the birthing of a world  
where wonder is restored.  
Joy is born in us once more!

### **The Peace**

Leader: The [JOY] 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**

**#126 Angels, from the Realms of Glory Black Hymnal  
(New Century Hymnal)**

**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

The musical score is written for voice in 8/8 time, with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of four lines of music. The first line starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter). The lyrics are: "This, this is where child-ren be - long,". Above the notes are the chords: F, C/E, Dm, Bb. The second line starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The notes are: C4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), A4 (quarter). The lyrics are: "Wel-comed as part of the wor - ship - ping throng." Above the notes are the chords: F/A, Gm, Am/C, C. The third line starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter). The lyrics are: "Wat - er, God's Word, bread and cup, pray'r and song,". Above the notes are the chords: F, Gm, Am, Bb. The fourth line starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The notes are: C4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), A4 (quarter). The lyrics are: "This is where child - ren be - long." Above the notes are the chords: F/C, Bb, F.

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

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

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

This is where child - ren be - long.

### Music Offering

**8:00**

Advent Gift Patrick M. Liebergen  
Heritage Choir

**10:30**

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing Arr. Kathleen Wissinger  
Chimers: Susan Glosan, Dan Haftl, Sandy Daumer, Debbie Romig, Carol Pope, Bonnie Herzog, Veronica Fabian, Tami Wassum and Ron Pope  
Director: Edie Fella

### First Reading

Isaiah 12: 2-6 (CEB)

God is indeed my salvation;  
I will trust and won't be afraid.  
Yah, the Lord, is my strength and my shield;  
he has become my salvation."

You will draw water with joy from the springs of salvation.  
And you will say on that day:  
“Thank the Lord; call on God’s name;  
proclaim God’s deeds among the peoples;  
declare that God’s name is exalted.  
Sing to the Lord, who has done glorious things;  
proclaim this throughout all the earth.”  
Shout and sing for joy, city of Zion,  
because the holy one of Israel is great among you.

## **Second Reading**

Luke 3: 7-18 (CEB)

Then John said to the crowds who came to be baptized by him, “You children of snakes! Who warned you to escape from the angry judgment that is coming soon? Produce fruit that shows you have changed your hearts and lives. And don’t even think about saying to yourselves, Abraham is our father. I tell you that God is able to raise up Abraham’s children from these stones. The ax is already at the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree that doesn’t produce good fruit will be chopped down and tossed into the fire.”

The crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” He answered, “Whoever has two shirts must share with the one who has none, and whoever has food must do the same.” Even tax collectors came to be baptized. They said to him, “Teacher, what should we do?” He replied, “Collect no more than you are authorized to collect.” Soldiers asked, “What about us? What should we do?” He answered, “Don’t cheat or harass anyone, and be satisfied with your pay.”

The people were filled with expectation, and everyone wondered whether John might be the Christ. John replied to them all, “I baptize you with water, but the one who is more powerful than me is coming. I’m not worthy to loosen the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. The shovel he uses to sift the wheat from the husks is in his hands. He will clean out his threshing area and bring the wheat into his barn. But he will burn the husks with a fire that can’t be put out.” With many other words John appealed to them, proclaiming good news to the people.

## 10:30 MUSIC OFFERING

### Chimes

Advent Meditation by Dan R. Edwards

### Message

Joy!

Pastor Kris Snyder-Samuels

### 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 [joy] 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 [joy] 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 [joy] to live and grow.**

: 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, who taught us to pray:

### **The Prayer of Jesus**

**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,  
for ever. 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!

## 401G Moment – The Financial Leadership Team

### 401G Faith Commitment Card

I/We make the faith-promise to support God's ministry and mission at Union UCC, in my/our life, and in the world by creating a diverse spiritual portfolio of discipleship and faithful living.

In a 401K one invests resources for the future and retirement.

In a 401G (G=God) we are investing in our spiritual lives hoping for short and long term returns, on earth as in heaven. What G's will be the focus of your investment of your time, energy, love, schedule, finances, resources in the next quarter? What do you need to invest in more deeply to create a more complete, diverse, balanced discipleship portfolio?

Pick 1 or 2 areas to commit to in reflection, prayer, and practice. See key for some questions and definitions. \*

\_\_\_ G = Good \_\_\_ G=Generosity \_\_\_ G=Gifts \_\_\_ G= Grace

\_\_\_ G= Gold \_\_\_ G= Grit & Grind \_\_\_ G= Gratitude

\_\_\_ G=Goals \_\_\_ G= God



**\*401G Key to Investing in Loving God, Neighbor, & Self Wholeheartedly:**

G= Good - do good/serve, create goodness, notice goodness.

G = Grace - receive and share God's grace.

G= Gratitude - express gratitude to God and others.

G= Generosity - give and love with your whole heart and life.

G= Gold - money, resources, treasures, material goods.

G = Goals - hopes and dreams, God's dream and mission.

G = Gifts—talents, friendship, compassion, kindness, love, fruits of the spirit, your passions and the world's needs intersect.

G = Grit and Grind - perseverance, patience, hope, trust, courage, strength, growth, meaning, purpose.

G=God - worship, prayer, meditation, study, relationship.

· Look at your calendar, bank statements, credit card bills—what do they reveal about your investments?

· Where are the incomes and debits in your life?

**For where your treasure is, your heart will be also. Matt 6: 21**

Leader: Many imaginative tales have been spun about "The Inn" and the people who may have been involved in the story. As we've already said, we know very little about the circumstances from the Bible. Another theory is that it wasn't an inn at all but the downstairs of a house where the family animals were kept, under the top floor where the family lived. This scenario suggests that each and every home can be a birthing place for more goodness in this world. It suggests that this House of God, this church, might contain a surprising nook or cranny that could house a holy endeavor for bringing more joy to someone's life.

**Christmas Mission Offering** This year our special offering will go to: 1. **The Allentown Warming Station at the YMCA** provides shelter, food, and a safe place for those experiencing homelessness. Doors are open 7pm-7am for a safe place to sleep and to get a meal.

2. **Parkland C.A.R.E.S. Food Pantry** serves members of the community affected by and suffering from hunger. The food pantry at Kernsville Elementary School serves over 130 families each month.

You can support these important efforts with your gifts using

an envelope from your packet for “Christmas Mission,” or a blank envelope marked Christmas Mission, or by donating online <http://www.unionucc.org/resources/giving-and-sponsorship/ways-to-give/> using the Christmas Mission category.

**Thank you for your 401G investments of GENEROSITY and GOOD in our community and neighbors.**

## **MUSIC OFFERING**

A Cradle Prayer    Rebecca St. James & Charles Garrett  
Susan Glosan

### **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.

### **Closing Carol**

Leader: Today’s closing carol is “What Child is This” that invites “peasants and kings” to claim Christ as their own (the Glory to God hymnal changes this to “one and all”). Chatterton Dix was not a clergy person like most of the hymn writers of the 19th century. He was a businessman in England. He asks the question, “Why lies he in such mean estate,” referring to the stable, and in the original second verse, answers by connecting the humble, wooden birth manger to the wood of the cross “borne” at his death:

Why lies He in such mean estate,  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through;  
the cross be borne for me, for you  
Hail, hail, the Word made flesh,  
the babe, the son of Mary.

True joy acknowledges the suffering of the world, and invites all people regardless of status to claim Christ's grace and joy as salve for the soul. May we offer warm laps and soft lullabies to sooth a hurting world.

**Carol #148 What Child Is This Black Hymnal  
(New Century Hymnal)**

**Postlude**

Little Drummer Boy Katherine K. Davis  
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</b> (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)	
Last Week	\$10,017.00
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>56</b>
10:30 am (includes children)	<b>108</b>
Children's Church	<b>28</b>

<b>2021 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:</b>	
Last Week:	1000lbs, \$100
Total YTD:	6,346 lbs, \$747

Christmas Mission to date: \$1,160
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All donations to be included on 2021 donation statements need to be received into the church office no later than Monday, December 27th.

## Presentations to the Glory of God

***Spread the Good News :  
Grateful for all the music of the season  
- Pastor Kris***

*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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