

the inn

HOUSING THE HOLY



Sunday, December 19, 2021

8am and 10:30am

4th Sunday of Advent

A Room with a View – Love

**LESSONS AND CAROLS WITH INTERRUPTED SILENCE and
COMMUNITY CHOIR**

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 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

Lay Reader: 8:00 Ron Pope, 10:30 Don Penrod

Ushers: 8am: Brad Hackett, Connie Gioielli, Dixie Gross

10:30am : Donna Christman, Brian Horwith, Deb Wenner, Dan Haftl, Mar-
yann Puia, Eric Minnich

Sound: Doug Albert

Acolyte: 8:00 Miranda Brown, 10:30 Emily Glosan

***Please stand in body or spirit**

PRELUDE

Angels We Have Heard on High Edwin S. Barnes
Blake Hoppes

Welcome and Announcements

We Open the Door

Hope Waits for Us at Advent Amanda Udis-Kessler

Leader: This has been an Advent season of prophets: Jeremiah, Baruch, Isaiah, Micah. And now the prophet is Mary—the woman who was the original house for the holy. She was “the inn,” her womb gestating love for the world. With all her heart, she proclaims that the lowly are lifted, the hungry are fed, mercy reigns. Like Mary, we must envision, must see, must prophesy and act on that vision for the world that God continues to call us to co-create. What is the view from the room that God has prepared?

Choir/Solo:

**Love waits for us at Advent
Love waits for us to care.
Love waits for our compassion
freely offered, freely shared.
In this time of preparation
for the work of co-creation,
for the birthing of a world
where faith shapes all we do.
Love is born in us anew!**

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

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

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

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

ALL:
Love waits for us at Advent
Love waits for us to care.
Love waits for our compassion
freely offered, freely shared.
In this time of preparation
for the work of co-creation,
for the birthing of a world
where faith shapes all we do.
Love is born in us anew!

The Peace

Leader: : The [LOVE] 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**

**#128 In the Bleak Midwinter 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 a voice part in 8/8 time, with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are: '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.' The chords are: F, C/E, Dm, Bb, F/A, Gm, Am/C, C, F, Gm, Am, Bb, 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.

LESSONS AND CAROLS with Interrupted Silence (10:30) and Community Choir

Gaudete 16th Century/Anonymous

Luke 2:8-16

Shepherd's Pipe Carol John Rutter

Luke 1:46-55

The World Has Waited Long Allan Bullard

Isaiah 11: 1-9

Sussex Carol English Traditional Carol
arr. David Willcocks

John 1:1-14

I Wonder As I Wander Appalachian Carol
arr. John Rutter

Luke 2:16-20

All in the Morning

English Traditional Carol

arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams

Noël Nouvelet

French Traditional Carol

arr. John Rutter

Singers

Katelyn Attieh, Emily Bachl, Karla Bachl, Todd Bachl, Donna Christman, Teresa Dalrymple, **Brycen Geiger***, Matthew Gerry, **Ronda Gerry***, Susan Glosan, Naomi Henninger, Amanda Lane, Leanna Lane, Julie Lane, **William Marshall***, Emma Milander, Carol Pope, Karla Quintanilla, Jacob Roth, Daniel Stewart, Carol Stout, **Alaina Swartz***, Angelina Thompson, Julie Wehr

****Interrupted Silence, vocal ensemble***

Accompanists

Blake Hoppes

Jacob Roth

Director

William Marshall

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 [love] 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 [love] 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 [love] 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, 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

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: 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

In the Bleak Midwinter

Gustav Theodore Holst

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 "O Come, All Ye Faithful," an 18th century hymn by John Francis Wade. This carol invites us to come "joyful and triumphant." It moves between exhortation and doctrine from the Nicene Creed in the second verse. But each verse moves from boisterous to almost a hushed tone at the beginning of the refrain as we tiptoe into the stable with "O come, let us adore him." A little-known verse focuses on love and places us in the manger with Jesus:

Child, for us sinners
poor and in the manger,
Fain we embrace thee, with awe and love:
Who would not love thee,
loving us so dearly?
O come, let us adore him...

Each one of us has known the need to love and be loved, to forgive and be forgiven, to embrace and be embraced. May we approach each person we meet with the adoration of Jesus Christ, tender and merciful, loving and kind, and make this a house of adoration for all.

**Carol #193 O Come, All Ye Faithful Gold Hymnal
(Hymns for the Family of God)**

Postlude

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks George F. Handel
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

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)	
Last Week	\$8,873.00
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>	

Attendance Last Week	
8:00 am	56
10:30 am (includes children)	108
Children's Church	28

2021 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Last Week:	\$125
Total YTD:	6,346 lbs, \$872

Christmas Mission to date:
\$1,524.78

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 :**

***In loving memory of Ruby and Donald Peters by
daughter Ann***

***In memory of grandparents Ruth and Gordon
Rothrock from Grandkids***

*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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