

the inn

HOUSING THE HOLY



**December 24th 2021**

**3pm and 5pm**

**Christmas Eve Worship**

**Welcome and Thank You to Interrupted Silence for their music this evening:**

**Ronda Gerry, soprano**

**Abby Hill, alto**

**CJ Fassel, tenor**

**Brycen Geiger, baritone**

**William Marshall, baritone**

**William Marshall, Director**

**Thank you for wearing a mask and practicing social distancing.**

**As you arrive, please visit the welcome tables to:**

- 1. Sign In (Pick up your 2022 Offering Envelopes)**
- 2. Get a paper bulletin of the service or you can view it on your phone at :**



**3. Share your offerings.** 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. Check out Ways to Give online and by text as well. Thank you for your generous hearts.

**4. Pick up a candle and a bag of communion elements. 1 for each person.**

**5. Children be sure to get your ornament and activity bag.**

**[If you stay in your car, tune your FM Radio to 102.3 FM to listen to the service.](#)**

Lay Reader: 3pm Ron Pope, 5pm Mollie Jarrett

Sound: 3pm Pat Sorg, Doug Albert; 5pm Mike Baer, Karl Klinger

Acolyte: 3pm Miranda Brown

**Directions for Communion: Everyone is welcome to this meal of love and grace.**

**In the sanctuary: Please pick up your bag of Communion elements at the sign in tables.**

**At Home: Since we are worshipping virtually we invite you to take communion virtually.**

**Please find a cracker, piece of bread, and some juice, wine, or water to share in communion with us.**

## **PRELUDE**

Instrumentalists:

3pm **Abby Hill, Trombone; Andy Hill, Trumpet; Gareth Hill, Alto Saxophone; Alex Hill, Trumpet; Mitchell Roth, Trumpet.**

**Leader: Mitchell Roth**

5pm **Abby Hill, Trombone; Andy Hill, Trumpet; Gareth Hill, Alto Saxophone; Alex Hill, Trumpet; Mitchell Roth, Trumpet, Mike Baer, Baritone. Leader: Mitchell Roth**

Away in the Manger  
O Little Town of Bethlehem

3pm Let it be Christmas, by Alan Jackson  
**Payge Haydt**

The Little Drummer Boy / Peace on Earth Alan Kohan,  
Lawrence Grossman, Ian Fraser  
**Payge and Parker Haydt**

5pm Guitar Solo **Mike Baer**  
Angel Suite Arr. Phillip Keveren  
**Garet Hill, piano**

I Wonder As I Wander  
**Interrupted Silence**

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear  
**Kiel Baer with Mike Baer**

## **Welcome and Announcements**

### **Music Offering**

Once in Royal David's City arr. Wilcocks

**Interrupted Silence**  
**Mitchel Roth, Trumpet**

3pm **Blake Hoppes**, Organ  
5pm **Jacob Roth**, Organ

**We Open the Door**

Hope Waits for Us at Advent      Amanda Udis-Kessler

Leader: All through the season of Advent as we prepared for Christmas, we've been exploring how we as a church can "make more room in the inn," becoming more hospitable to the needs of our community. On this Christmas Eve, we declare that The Inn is open for the business of compassion with room enough for all! The long-awaited Messiah has been born and on him the light shines. We have only to open the doors of our lives and say "welcome." Our Advent journey has led us to this moment when the light shining through the closed doors of life becomes an open door to new possibilities, new relationships. What a poignant moment for us this year as the light—the hope, peace, joy and love—multiplies from one illuminated heart and hand to another.

**Choir/Solo: Interrupted Silence with Ronda Gerry, Descant**  
**Love comes to us at Christmas**  
**Love comes to heal our souls.**  
**Love brings an invitation**  
**that our hearts might be made whole.**  
**As we gather at the stable**  
**in the darkness, glad and grateful**  
**for the sacred in our midst,**  
**for wonder and delight,**  
**Christ is born in us this night.**

Leader: Tonight we offer the Lights of Hope, Peace, Joy, and  
Love  
to illumine the Door of Welcome.  
And we add the brightest light of all... the Light of the Newborn  
Jesus.  
It shines bright like the star that rose over Bethlehem.

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

May this light awaken us to possibilities and lead us to greater hospitality.

There /S room in this Inn, a House for the Holy.

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.

**ALL:**

**Love comes to us at Christmas**

**Love comes to heal our souls.**

**Love brings an invitation**

**that our hearts might be made whole.**

**As we gather at the stable**

**in the darkness, glad and grateful**

**for the sacred in our midst,**

**for wonder and delight,**

**Christ is born in us this night.**

**The Peace**

Leader: The [LIGHT] 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** O Come All Ye Faithful arr. Wilcocks

**Interrupted Silence**

**Mitchel Roth**, Trumpet

3pm **Blake Hoppes**, Organ

5pm **Jacob Roth**, Organ

**1. O Come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels!**

**CHORUS:**

**O come let us adore Him,  
O come let us adore Him,  
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!**

**2. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!  
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!**

**CHORUS**

**3. Hail! Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning,  
O Jesus! for evermore be Thy name adored.  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;**

**CHORUS**

**Children's Time with Ms. Tiffany**

**Please come forward to join Ms. Tiffany for a Children's Time and to receive a worship bag and ornament.**

Join her on Sundays for Education Hour at 9:15am-10:15am and Children's Church at 10:30am Worship. Contact her for questions and to get more info about events.

Tiffany Lakatosh (dired@unionucc.org)

**MUSIC OFFERING**

3pm Noel Chris Tomlin

**Julie Wehr with Blake Hoppes**

5pm **Kids Choir**

Eight Little Elves Felicity Hamer and Christopher Pennington from The Kiboomers

Jesus, Savior of the World Kidspring Children's Ministry

**Children's Choir: Micayla Hoffert, Brooklyn Hoppes, Lincoln Hoppes, Connor Maxwell, Lucas Maxwell, Raegan Minnich, Cael Vermuelen Hunter Vermuelen Leaders: Blake Hoppes, Erin Vermeulen**

**First Reading**  
**Isaiah 9:2-7 (NRSV)**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined... For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

**MUSIC OFFERING**

**Interrupted Silence**

**The Angel Gabriel arr. Fraser Wilson**

**The Story**

**Luke 2: 1-7 (NRSV)**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

**MUSIC OFFERING**

3pm His Name Shall Be Matt Redman

**Jason Klinger with Blake Hoppes**

5pm Silent Night Arr. Richard Walters

**Julie Lane with Blake Hoppes**

**Christmas Message**

## **MUSIC OFFERING**

3pm Be Born in Me Bernie Herms and Nichole Nordeman  
**Abby Hill with Garet Hill**

5pm Believe Alan Silvestri & Glen Ballard, Arr. Mark Hayes  
High School Choir: **Naomi Henninger, Emma  
Milander, Olivia Rice** Director: Blake Hoppes

### **Prayers of the People Hope is the word**

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, 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.**



## MUSIC OFFERING

5pm 24 Capricci, Op.35, No. 1 by Friedrich Dotzauer  
**Graham Smith**, cello

**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.

Please pick up your 2022 offering envelopes at the table in the lobby tonight.

**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.



## 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?

### Where will you invest this quarter?

Pick 1 or 2 areas to commit to in reflection, prayer, and practice.

- 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?

This card is for you. If you'd like a pastor or someone from the Financial Leadership Team to respond to you, please return it to the offering bin or the church office.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Please contact me about signing up for E-giving.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to talk with someone about a planned gift or including the church in my will.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have a question or concern, please have a pastor call me.

**ROOTED IN LOVE!**  
 From Pastor Kris and the  
 Financial Leadership Team: Don  
 Penrod, Marianne Kitzmiller,  
 John Harting, Rick Klingensmith,  
 Larry Todd, Aften Hamm,  
 Phil Wehr



## **MUSIC OFFERING**

3pm I Wonder As I Wander  
**Interrupted Silence**

5pm Some Children See Him Alfred Burt  
**Mitchell Roth, Trumpet and Jacob Roth, Organ**

### **A Celebration of Communion**

**Directions for Communion: Everyone is welcome to this meal of love and grace.**

**In the sanctuary: Please pick up your bag of Communion elements at the sign in tables.**

**At Home: Please find a cracker or piece of bread and please some juice, wine, or water.**

Leader: After Jesus was born, the visitors began to show up to his birthplace, spurred by the message of the angels. But what we know is that in the presence of Jesus there are no visitors, we are all family with a place reserved for each one of us. And so, let us hear about those who gathered and join them in the presence of Jesus:

**Luke 2: 8-20** Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. The Lord's angel stood before them, the Lord's glory shone around them, and they were terrified. The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. Your savior is born today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord. This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, "Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors."

When the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go right now to Bethlehem and see what's happened. Let's confirm what the Lord has

revealed to us.” They went quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw this, they reported what they had been told about this child. Everyone who heard it was amazed at what the shepherds told them. Mary committed these things to memory and considered them carefully. The shepherds returned home, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. Everything happened just as they had been told.

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

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

Leader: Now let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**ALL: How good it is to give thanks and praise!**

Leader: We gather tonight at the Manger of Grace.  
And it is right, and a good and joyful thing,  
on this special night and always and everywhere,  
to give thanks to you, creator of heaven and earth.

We praise your name as we sing:

**Carol** Hark the Herald Angels Sing

**ALL: Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!”  
Joyful, all ye nations rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With th’angelic host proclaim,  
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”**

**Hark! the herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King**

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.”

In remembrance of your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,  
we offer ourselves to you, O God,  
heart, body, mind, and spirit.

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 and mission to and with all the world.

### **Breaking of the Bread and Lifting of the Cup**

Leader: The gifts of God for the people of God.  
Take and eat, take and drink.  
May the precious body and blood of our Lord Jesus  
Christ, keep and preserve you until eternal life.

### **Music Offering**

O Holy Night

**Ronda Gerry, William Marshall**

**Blake Hoppes**

## **Candlelighting**

Leader: Friends, this is the moment we've been waiting for. This is the moment we missed so much last year. Yes, we found ways to "pass the light" from one to another across the distance, knowing that nothing could extinguish the light of God in this world, knowing that Christ was with us and will always be. But oh, how good it is to be in this Holy House together. And for those who are watching online, we feel you, we know you are there, we are so glad that you join us in this moment with a candle lit at your own holy house. The Spirit makes it possible for us to be connected, as we found out last year. Let us sing this beloved song, Silent Night, that has been present through two centuries of ups and downs, steadfast in its message that the light still shines.

**\*Carol** Silent Night, Holy Night

**Directions:** Turn your candle on. Wait to join in singing until after the first verse solo.

**Solo: William Marshall**  
German

**ALL: Silent night, holy night!**  
**All is calm, all is bright.**  
**Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child.**  
**Holy infant so tender and mild,**  
**Sleep in heavenly peace,**  
**Sleep in heavenly peace**

**Silent night, holy night!**  
**Shepherds quake at the sight.**  
**Glories stream from heaven afar**  
**Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,**  
**Christ the Savior is born!**  
**Christ the Savior is born**

**Silent night, holy night!**  
**Son of God love's pure light.**  
**Radiant beams from Thy holy face**  
**With dawn of redeeming grace,**

**Jesus Lord, at Thy birth  
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth**

Leader: Before extinguishing your light and getting ready to leave here, stop and pause in a moment of silence. See the lighted faces of this gathered community and know that you belong in this family of love. See your own lighted candle and let it fill your heart, mind, and soul. Raise your candle for the final blessing:

**Benediction**

**Directions: Raise your candle.**

As you go out into the world this night...

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.  
Go in peace. Merry Christmas. Amen.

\* **Carol** Joy To The World with Instrumentalist and Interrupted Silence

**ALL:**

**1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come:  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
And heaven and nature sing.  
And heaven and nature sing.  
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**2. Joy to the world! The Savior reigns:**

**Let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.**

**Merry Christmas!**

**Enjoy the Lights in the Grove, they will be on every night  
until the New Year.**

**Postlude**

Worship Theme ©[www.worshipdesignstudio.com/theinn](http://www.worshipdesignstudio.com/theinn)

**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.

**Thank you** to all who helped to make our Advent and Christmas so meaningful. Thank you to everyone who helped clean and decorate our sanctuary, church, and grove. Thank you to those who served as choir members, musicians, acolytes, ushers, and worship participants. Thank you to our staff, Consistory, and leaders for giving your time and talents so generously.



# EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

<b>Offering</b> (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>	

<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:	\$125
Total YTD:	6,346 lbs, \$872

Christmas Mission to date: \$1,524.78
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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 :*

**It's so good to be able to attend Church again!**  
**by Carolyn Barry.**

*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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