

the inn

HOUSING THE HOLY



**December 24th 2021
8pm
Christmas Eve Worship**

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: Claire Kern
Sound: Mike Baer, Dawn Dengler

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: Justin Bower, Trumpet; Mitchell Roth, Trumpet, Mike Baer, Baritone: Leader: Mitchell Roth

Away in the Manger

Not That Far From Bethlehem Jeff Borders/Gayla Borders/
Alexander Lowell

Susan Glosan with Blake Hoppes

The Little Drummer Boy / Peace on Earth Alan Kohan,
Lawrence Grossman, Ian Fraser

Payge and Parker Haydt with Blake Hoppes

Bells of Paradise Lawrence Juber
Mike Baer

Let it be Christmas Alan Jackson
Payge Haydt with Blake Hoppes

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: Adult Choir 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 *IS* 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 with Instrumentalists
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

Instrumentalists

O Little Town of Bethlehem

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.

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

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus Tune: Hyfrydol, Arr.
Marianne Forman

Adult Choir: **Lucy Boyer, Theresa Dalrymple, Matt Gerry, Ronda Gerry, Susan Glosan, Stephen Kareha, Carol Pope, Jacob Roth, Julie Wehr**

Christmas Message

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.**

CAROL In the Bleak Midwinter

ALL:

**1. In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone,
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.**

**2. Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the midnight air,
But his mother only, in her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the beloved with a kiss.**

**3. What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb,
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part,
Yet what I can I give him: give my heart.**

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.

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: _____

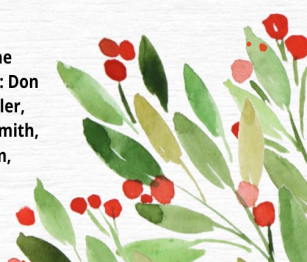
_____ Please contact me about signing up for E-giving.

_____ 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

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

Kiel Baer with Mike Baer

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.

Your intention was for every created thing to have a place,
to have vitality, to have sustenance in this world.

Join us to your purpose, offering hospitality and healing
to the suffering world.

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

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 life gave the blueprints for the building of church
community.

You invite 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.

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 to you, O God,
heart, body, mind, and spirit.

Carol We Three Kings

**ALL: We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar.
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.**

**O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect Light.**

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

Light of the World
Paul Brendon Mabury

Paul T. Duncan / Lauren Daigle /

Abby Kern

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
Jacob Roth, Organ

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

Solo: Abby Kern

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

**ALL: 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
Jacob Roth, Organ

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

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

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
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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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