

"OH LORD, YOU HAVE SEARCHED ME AND KNOWN ME.
YOU KNOW WHEN I SIT DOWN AND WHEN I RISE UP;
YOU DISCERN MY THOUGHTS FROM FAR AWAY. YOU
SEARCH OUT MY PATH ANY MY LYING DOWN, AND
ARE ACQUAINTED WITH ALL MY WAYS." — PSALM
139:1-3

AFTER THE CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS, WE MOVE INTO A SEASON OF HEARING THE STORIES OF PEOPLE DISCOVERING AND RECOGNIZING THE IDENTITY OF JESUS. IN THE TIME FROM EPIPHANY TO THE BEGINNING OF LENT, WE TOO WILL DISCOVER THE DEPTH OF WHO JESUS IS, AND BY EXTENSION WHO WE ARE CALLED TO BE AS HIS FOLLOWERS.

HOW ARE WE KNOWN AS FOLLOWERS?
WHAT IDENTIFIES US IN SUCH A WAY THAT OTHERS
SEE AN UNMISTAKABLE LIKENESS IN US?

c. Worship Design Studio

# January 9th, 2022 8am and 10:30am Holy Communion, 401G Sunday

**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

**NEW MEMBERS:** Our next new member gatherings are Sunday, February 13 and 20 at 9:15-10:15 in Memorial Hall. Joining would happen on Sunday, February 27th at 8am or 10:30am worship. To share your questions and interest in learning more contact pastorkris@unionucc.org or call the church office to speak to her.

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 Ron Pope, 10:30 Leah Seyler

Ushers: 8:00: Tom Anderson, Linda Anderson, Larry Todd

10:30am: Deidre Bilger, Carol James, Randy Bilger, Ruth Ruch, Janice Metz-

ger, Julie Johnson, Todd McCoy

Sound: Karl Klinger

# 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.

Call in to listen to the service at 610-410-9595.

Email Marissa at administrator@unionucc.org if you would like a bulletin mailed to you.

# TODAY we are celebrating communion.

Everyone is welcome to this meal of love and grace. Please pick up your supplies at the welcome table when you arrive.

If you are joining us from home, we invite you to get a piece of bread or a cracker and some juice/wine or water.

## \*Please stand in body or spirit

# PRELUDE Ukrainian Bell Carol Payge Haydt, viola Blake Hoppes, piano

## **Welcome and Announcements**

\*Call to Worship Poem by John van de Laar The following poem by John van de Laar is titled "About The Light" (© Sacredise 2008).

Leader: It's always been about the light with you, hasn't it, Jesus?

Magi, braving distance and desert to find you, and bewildered shepherds, compelled by an angel's invitation, allowed light to be their guide,

And it is still the light that calls us to you; the light of beauty that whispers its truth in surprising ways and places; the light of compassion that kneels, and washes road-soiled, life-battered feet; the light of joy that glows even in the darkness of grief and suffering; the light that seeks to shine within us, and through us into the dark corners of our world.

It's always been about the light with you, Jesus; and it's always about the light for us. Please lead us, now and always, out of darkness and into your marvelous light. Amen.

#### The Peace

Leader: One of our core values is God's extravagant grace. We welcome and encourage each other on this journey of faith by saying that no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,

ALL: You are welcome here.

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you!

ALL: And also with you!

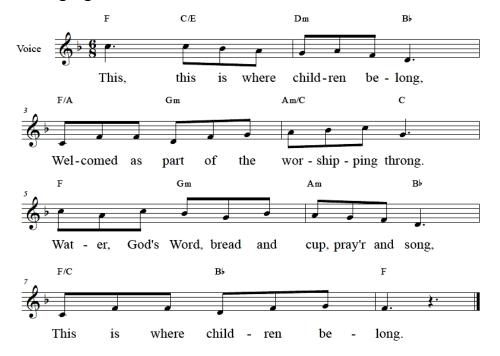
Leader: As we rise and stand in body or spirit for the first song, I invite you to pass a "wave" of peace to the people around you (and the people worshiping at home)!

\*Hymn: #205 Go, Tell It On the Mountains Gold Hymnal (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).

Song: This, This is Where Children Belong 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).

# Scripture Matthew 2: 1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For

we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Message It's a 401G Sunday! John Harting, Don Penrod, and Pastor Kris from the Financial Leadership Team

HYMN Here I Am, Lord Dan Schutte

I, the Lord of sea and sky I have heard my people cry All who dwell in dark and sin My hand will save

I, who made the stars of night I will make their darkness bright Who will bear my light to them?

#### Whom shall I send?

**CHORUS** 

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night
I will go, Lord, if you lead me
I will hold your people in my heart

I, the Lord of snow and rain
I have borne my people's pain
I have wept for love of them
They turn away

I will break their hearts of stone Give them hearts for love alone Who will speak my word to them Whom shall I send?

#### **CHOURS**

I, the Lord of wind and flame I will tend the poor and lame I will set a feast for them My hand will save

Finest bread I will provide
'Til their hearts be satisfied
I will give my life to them
Whom shall I send?

## **CHORUS**

# **Prayers of the People**

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.

Response: #173 You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore

Verse 1

ALL: You have come down to the lakeshore Seeking neither the wise nor the wealthy, But only asking for me to follow.

O Jesus, you have looked into my eyes; Kindly smiling, You've called out my name. On the sand I have abandoned my small boat; now with you I will seek other seas.

Donate to God's Mission and Ministry at UNION UCC <u>OFFERING ENVELOPES</u> you can mail your envelopes to the church. The church address is on one side, just add a stamp.

<u>ELECTRONIC GIVING</u> 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 <a href="http://www.unionucc.org/egive.pdf">http://www.unionucc.org/egive.pdf</a> and send to <a href="mailto:financialmanager@unionucc.org">financialmanager@unionucc.org</a>

<u>DONATE ONLINE with your Credit or Debit Card</u>
Go to <a href="http://www.unionucc.org/resources/giving-and-sponsorship/ways-to-give/">http://www.unionucc.org/resources/giving-and-sponsorship/ways-to-give/</a> and click **GIVE ONLINE**.

<u>AMAZON SMILE</u> Donate to Union UCC, Neffs (Search by zip code 18065) while you shop at Amazon. <a href="https://smile.amazon.com">https://smile.amazon.com</a>.

**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!

#### COMMUNION

Hymn used during Communion: #417 This Is a Day of New Beginnings Black Hymnal (New Century Hymnal)
Leader: Christ invites to this table all who are ready to move beyond the limitations of the past, all who are eager to move into the "new thing" that God is doing in our midst, all who are willing to let go of the pain that's gone.

ALL (Sung): This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on, time to believe what love is bringing, laying to rest the pain that's gone...

Leader: And so this is an open invitation to come and receive the bread that will sustain us as we embark on this new calendar year. All are invited to receive the sweetness of the cup as a sign of God's promise of abundant possibilities. All are invited to this meal, for all are forgiven their past regrets and invited into God's grace-filled future! Praise to the Living God!

Leader: God be with you!

ALL: And also with you!

Leader: Lift up your hearts!

ALL: We lift them up to God!

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Living One!

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise!

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Creator and Renewer of all life. Time and again you seek us out, breathing again the breath of life into the deflated places our lives.

And so, we come to your table again to praise you and taste yet again what your steadfast love can do...

ALL (sung): In faith we'll gather round the table to taste and share what love can do.

This is a day of new beginnings; our God is making all things new...

Leader: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. He healed the sick, fed the hungry and ate with those others considered unworthy. Through him, faith and hope were born again for so many...

ALL (Sung): For by the life and death of Jesus, God's mighty Spirit, now as then, can make for us a world of difference, as faith and hope are born again...

Leader: On 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, as we remember these words and acts of Jesus, we offer our own lives, leaving behind what we do not need, seeking new paths full of risen life in you. As followers of Christ, we proclaim and live out this holy mystery:

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

ALL (Sung): Then let us, with the Spirit's daring, step from the past and leave behind our disappointment, guilt, and grieving, seeking new paths, and sure to find...

Leader: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, so that we may be for the world the body of Christ, breaking ourselves open to your future. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world.

# ALL (Sung): Christ is alive, and goes before us to show and share what love can do. T his is a day of new beginnings; our God is making all things new!

#### SHARING THE MEAL

L: The gifts of God for the people of God. Take and eat. Take and drink.

L: May the precious body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ keep and preserve you unto eternal life.

#### **Benediction**

\*Hymn #160 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (Jesus, the Light of the World)

Black Hymnal (New Century Hymnal)

# Postlude Blake Hoppes

He Is Born! Traditional French Carol, 19th c.

#### **EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY**

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)		
Last Week	\$9,211.00	
Calendar 2021 (Jan Nov)	\$333,115.00	
Calendar 2020 (Jan Nov.)	\$327,195.00	
Change from Last Year	+1.8%	
Budget (July-Nov.)	\$145,530.00	
Actual (July-Nov.)	\$146,026.00	
Giving vs. Budget	+0.3%	
Additional financial information available in		

Consistory Minutes

Attendance Last Week	
8:00 am	N/A
10:30 am (includes children)	80
Children's Church	N/A

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

Christmas Mission to date: \$3,242.00

# Presentations to the Glory of God

Spread the Good News :

# New Year Blessings! 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.

CCLI LICENSE # 1523377 / Streaming # 20407732

One License #A714125 / Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from *ONE LICENSE*, License #A714125