



April 17, 2022
Easter Sunrise Service

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: To share your questions and interest in learning more about our church family, 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.

Ushers: Phil Wehr, Dennis Rothrock, Denise Rothrock
Sound: Mike Baer

Wearing a mask inside the building will now be optional.

For those who are not vaccinated against COVID-19, we recommend wearing a mask (as per CDC guidelines).

Singing - Close proximity while singing contributes to transmission of particulates. If you like to sing, please consider wearing a mask during those portions of worship. Our choirs will continue to mask when singing.

***Please stand in body or spirit**

Prelude

In The Bulb There is a Flower

Mitchell Roth, trumpet

Welcome and Announcements

Threshold

Leader: During the season of Lent, and this last week in Holy Week, we focused on growing gardens, tending the life that is right in front of us, rather than constantly climbing ladders of what this world defines as success. We have been embracing “good enough” lives and “good enough” selves that are worthy of love, no matter what. We have been acknowledging the suffering that is a natural part of life, and we have practiced compassion as we deal with the realities and limitations that invite us to let go of perfectionism and the incessant drive toward something other than our own real, holy, and “blessed-regardless” lives. And now we encounter Easter. It is a day we proclaim that while death is a part of life—even little “deaths” along the way of dreams, of love, of the way we thought life would go—even though this is a part of life, we are part of a faith that invites us to consider that the Good Gardener is *always* tending us, abiding with us, beyond any kind of death that faces us.

Calling on God *Based on Psalm 114*

Leader: Let us pray together:

**Holy One, You whose love endures forever,
you keep offering us new life and hope, no matter what.
We praise you, for you are our strength and our salvation.
We shall not die, but live, for you call us into the light—
encouraging us to reach for the sun, unfurl our full colors,
and know that we are held in the deep and rich soil of your
garden—
this is more than good enough for us!
Amen.**

Honest Questions, Compassionate Response

Leader: Easter is tricky when it comes to faith. We come for the happy ending—the “and then they lived happily ever after.” The resurrection story proclaims hope over despair and life over death, yet we know that life continued, and continues for us, as a story of spiking heartbreak moments that are not forever fixed. The nature of being created for love is that we will always hunger for more, that there is never enough life and love to satisfy. And endings are often too soon. But perhaps a good enough faith is one that moves through the chronic nature of being incurably human with an eye for resurrection moments that assure us that this good enough life is worthy of our amazement. I invite you imagine in this silence the deep seed and shoot that is growing within you, yearning for light and life.

Silent Reflection

Leader: Hear this compassionate word from the prophet Isaiah: “I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight.”

Know that already, God is offering us freedom from
the fear of isolation and anguish at endings,
inviting us to community and creativity for birthing new life—
unexpected life, unending love.

And know, that despite our sometimes faltering steps,
in the name of Jesus Christ, you are being forgiven, even now.

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
Glory to God! Amen.**

The Peace

Leader: How do we mean the words that we say: “No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey,

ALL: You are welcome here.

Leader: Let’s do all that we can to practice this greeting in word and action.

Please rise and stand in body or spirit for the first song as we greet each other.

***Opening Hymn/Song**

HYMN Christ the Lord Is Risen Today
Charles Wesley Easter Hymn
#233 New Century Hymnal (Black Hymnal)
Brass ensemble: **Mike Baer & Mitchell Roth**

**1. Christ the Lord is ris’n today, Alleluia!
Mortal tongues and angels say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, glad heav’ns, and earth, reply, Alleluia!**

**2. Love’s redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids Christ rise, Alleluia!
God has opened paradise, Alleluia!**

Gospel Reading

John 20: 1-18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.”

Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him."

When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

A Word of God that is still speaking,
Thanks be to God.

Thoughts about an Imperfect Life and Faith:
A Good Enough Faith Pastor Kayli

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>.

This year the **Easter Mission Offerings** will be divided between the **Miller-Keystone Blood Center** and **Meals on Wheels of the Lehigh Valley**. Please support these two mission organizations by using the Easter Mission Offering envelope in your envelope packet, or blank envelope marked - Easter Mission.

Give online at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z51X/campaign/C-12H63>

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.

OFFERING PRAYER: Generous God,
in light of your extravagant blessings—
no matter what the state of the world or our imperfect lives—
we offer our gifts and ourselves,
and know that you transform what we plant
into the produce of love.

Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

Everyone is welcome to this meal of love and grace.

Leader: Christ looks upon each one with love and says,

ALL: “you are welcome at my table.”

Christ looks upon each one with compassion and says,

ALL: “whatever troubles you, bring it here.”

Christ looks upon each one with grace and says,

ALL: “whatever you’d like to leave behind, do it here.”

Leader: Will you come?

Will you bring your troubles?

Will you shed all that is unnecessary in your life?

This is the place where you need not be perfect,
you need not be sure of yourself or your faith,
you need not feel whole and right with the world.

Jesus invited many to his tables
and in doing so, he assured them of their place
in the illogical reign of love and grace.
He just wanted them to be hungry for relationship—
hungry to look across a table into another’s eyes,
to break open their lives,
and lift a cup in the midst of the hard times and hear,
“this is for all,
and so this is for you, beloved.”

Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Holy Living God be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Leader: It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
anytime and everywhere to give thanks to you.
You created this world full of so much beauty and
Sorrow and called it Good. And called it Enough.

Although we feel lost at times,
you are ever present.
We doubt, resist, turn away, and rage,
insistent on our own power to pull us through,
and yet sure that we are to blame,
making life seem like a confusing paradox.

But you are patient.
You are here to meet us—reside with us in strange and
alienating times,
always faithful, always present
in this Body
in this Body

Leader: Through the life and ministry of Jesus,
we can imagine and live into a community
where all who struggle are taken into loving arms
and those who struggle to love are invited into greater
compassion.

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.”

Leader: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and fruit of the vine.
Make them be for us sustenance for our days,

love for simple and ordinary lives,
fuel for justice in this world.

By your Spirit open us to each other.
Open us to the world,
making us one in you,
through Christ,
in the power of your amazing grace!

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.**

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.

A Ritual Action

Leader: A bonfire is an ancient Easter Vigil tradition, signifying the return of light in the darkness, the opening of the tomb and the resurrection of Jesus. Our faith calls us to rekindle the fires of hope, and sometimes that means allowing some things to be transformed by a refining fire. We have focused this Lent on letting some things go: perfectionism being one, but also other things that rob us of the joy of living the reality of our lives, those things that pull us away from tending that which is the most important.

In the lovely darkness of a womb and tomb,
God held us close, created hope, taking time to

fashion, craft, nurture, feed,
and love us into liberation and new life.
God imbued our stories with eternal light
in the story of the resurrected Jesus.
God has given us the light of day, the light of this world,
and invites us to let this light shine forth
as disciples of Jesus,
aiding in the rekindling of the fire of the
Spirit in all of creation.

A Blessing for You Who Are Being Planted

[from Good Enough by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie]

Blessed are you who are buried. You who feel stuck in the depths of grief and despair or who sit in the pit of unknowing. You who are learning to trust the timing of a tender Gardener.

Blessed are you who are growing, you who burst with new life, fresh creativity. Who understand the pain that sometimes comes with stretching and changing, pruning and being cut back.

And blessed are you in your season of fruitfulness. You who are learning to abide in the vine, and who taste the sweetness of God's loving-kindness. The God who was there all along—planting, waiting, watering, pruning, delighting. The God who pays careful attention to God's garden.

Benediction

And now, may the God who loves all of creation, especially
the gardens we call our lives,
and Jesus, our companion along this crooked path called life,
and the Holy Spirit, who loves to improvise in surprising
ways,
go with you, dwell among you, and give you joy. Amen.

***Closing Hymn/Song**

HYMN Jesus Christ Is Risen Today Davidica, Llanfair
240 New Century Hymnal (Black Hymnal)
Brass ensemble: **Mike Baer & Mitchell Roth**

**1. Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once, upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss, Alleluia!**

**2. To the tomb the women bring, Alleluia!
Spices rich, and offering, Alleluia!
Asking where might Jesus be, Alleluia!
Savior come to set us free, Alleluia!**

Worship Notes:

Altar and Sanctuary Decorations: Claire Kern, Deb Topp,
Tina Jarrett, Kathy Bonsell, Pastor Kris, Pastor Kayli

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EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)	
Last Week	
Calendar 2022 (Jan)	\$29,063.00
Calendar 2021 (Jan.)	\$30,541.00
Change from Last Year	-4.8%
Budget (July-Jan.)	\$255,250.00
Actual (July-Jan.)	\$253,847.00
Giving vs. Budget	-0.5%
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>	

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

2021 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Last Week:	lbs, \$
Total YTD:	1,983 lbs, \$235

Easter Mission to Date:	\$478.00
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Presentations to the Glory of God

Spread the Good News : Happy Easter from 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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