

Sundays, December 4, 11, and 18 at 8am and 10:30am

Friday, December 23 at 7pm, Christmas Eve Worship Candlelight and Communion

Saturday, December 24, Christmas Eve Worship

3pm Candlelight and Communion

5pm Children's Choir, No Communion

8pm Candlelight and Communion

Sunday, December 25 Christmas Day No 8am Worship, Only 10:30am Worship

Sunday, January 1 New Year's Day No 8am Worship, Only 10:30am Worship

Sunday, January 8 8am and 10:30am Worship with Communion, Young Adult Sunday

Pick up a copy of the book *Everything Is Sacred* for inspirational daily readings.

Copies are in the lobby on Sundays or in the bin on the South side entrance during the week.

**Sunday, January 1, 2023**  
**10:30am Worship**  
**Sunday After Christmas: Sacred Doing**

***GUESTS, Welcome to our faith community here at Union UCC. To learn more about us please visit our website at [www.unionucc.org](http://www.unionucc.org) or like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/unionneffs](http://www.facebook.com/unionneffs).***

*Please complete the Welcome Card in the racks in front of you and hand it in with your offering or give it to a pastor. This is a good way to let us know you're here.*

***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 are on life's journey, you are welcome here.***

Lay Reader: Donna Christman

Ushers: Aften Hamm, Scott Nagle, Tami Herzog Wassum, Suzanne Lorah, Pat Warmkessel, Don Penrod, Jennifer Haley, Suzanne Schneider

Sound: Mike Baer

**\*Please stand in body or spirit.**

**Gathering Music**  
**Go Tell It on the Mountain      Spiritual**  
**Blake Hoppes**

**Reflecting the Sacred**

*The shiny additions to our Advent and Christmas visuals remind us that we are called to reflect the sacred each and every day. "Incarnation" is a word that means that God's presence came to dwell among all people, and we believe this happened in a special way in the birth of Jesus. All creation has always been imbued with the Creator's brilliance. This season, we will remember the call to shine with this holy light.*

**Welcome**

**Crossing the Threshold**

*Leader: Ahhh... here we are again, friends, and for the last time sitting in a time of contemplation together. As this series draws to a close, I want to encourage you to continue this practice at home if it has resonated with you, giving you a bit of respite and calm. Here on January 1, the threshold of a New Year, it is appropriate for us to settle in and start this calendar year with aligning ourselves in the quiet with the reflection of the sacred within us so that we might be inspired to be God's Sacred Doing in this world.*

*I invite you to get comfortable where you are sitting. I invite you to open your hands upward in your lap.*

*Close your eyes if you are comfortable doing so and take a deep, intentional breath in and out. If it is difficult to get your mind to quiet down, if you are making shopping lists in there, it's OK. Don't judge it... just take another breath and "thank and excuse" for just a mo-*

ment the tasks that might be popping up on the to-do list in your brain. That's it. Take time to settle in.

Bring to your mind's eye—to your memory and imagination—a time of day that you love. Is there a moment in your day where you get to catch a breath in some alone time? Or is it that you love the moment you see your kids after school? Or perhaps it is cooking in your kitchen or watering plants or some other simple, ordinary, moment. As you see this scene, put it in slow motion. Now imagine particles of light showering slowly upon it. Let this reflection of light be an anointing of hope for seeing more and more of life through the lens of the Sacred. Continue to just breathe, listen, and see with your heart.

SOLO or CHOIR:  
Upon this moment,  
upon this people,  
upon this place,  
the holy comes.  
And sacred knowing  
brings sacred being  
for sacred doing of God's plan.

Take one more deep breath and open your eyes slowly.

*Readers:*  
Please repeat after me [us]:

We pray for a new start this day.  
**We pray for a new start this day.**

We open to see the Sacred reflected in all things.  
**We open to see the Sacred reflected in all things.**

We open to see each relationship  
**We open to see each relationship**

as a gift of holy presence.  
**as a gift of holy presence.**

This is the gift of the Christ Mystery,  
**This is the gift of the Christ Mystery,**

lighting the way to the future.  
**lighting the way to the future.**

**ALL (sung):**  
**Upon this moment,**  
**upon this people,**  
**upon this place,**  
**the holy comes.**  
**And sacred knowing**  
**brings sacred being**  
**for sacred doing of God's plan.**

### **Prayer**

*Leader:* Living God, Christ Mystery, Spirit of New Beginnings,  
we give you thanks for this commitment to help one  
another.

As we take in the renewed life you offer,  
may we be a reflection of your light,  
expanding the sacred doing of our community  
to the alleviation of suffering wherever it is found.  
Amen.

### **Sharing God's Light**

*Leader:* One of our core values as God's church here in  
Neffs is extravagant welcome.

So repeat after me - No matter who you are or where you  
are on life's journey,

**ALL: No matter who you are or where you are on life's  
journey,**

*Leader:* you are welcome here.

**ALL: You are welcome here.**

Leader: Please stand in body or spirit to greet each other and to share God's light with one another.

We send our love and light to those watching and listening at home or during the week.

**\*Opening Hymn The Summons John L. Bell c. 1987 Iona Community**

- 1. Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown, Will you let my name be known  
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?**
- 2. Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?**
- 3. Will you let the blinded see, if I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,  
And admit to what I mean in you and you in me?**
- 4. Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world  
around  
Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?**
- 5. Lord, your summons echoes true if you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.  
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.**

Please be seated.

## 10:30 Worship – Time for Children

**Education Hour for All Ages – 9:15-10:15am**

**Children's Church – during 10:30am Worship for ages 3-grade 5.**

Ms. Tiffany would like to invite children to join her and her volunteers for Sunday School at 9:15 and Children's Church during 10:30am service.

**TODAY: Pastors invite children forward for a Children's Time and then they leave with Ms. Tiffany for a time designed just for them!**

Children will be in the basement and will return before worship is over. If worship ends early, parents are welcome to meet their children downstairs.

### Children's Time

#### All: (Sung)

We reflect a sacred light,  
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la.  
Shining through the darkest night.  
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la.  
Like the shining stars above,  
Fa-la-la, la-la-la, la-la-la.  
We can beam God's light and love,  
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la.

**Song:** Go, Make a Diff'ence    Angrisano, Tomaszek #199  
Sing! Prayer and Praise

The image shows two lines of musical notation in a single system, written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The first line of music corresponds to the lyrics: "Go make a dif - f'rence. \_ We can make a dif -". The second line of music corresponds to the lyrics: "- f'rence. \_ Go make a dif - f'rence in the world. \_". The word "Fine" is written above the end of the second line of music. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

## **Introduction to Scripture**

*Reader:* We've looked through the lens of the sacred and have experienced time, people, places, others, and ourselves as God's holy love reflected and incarnate in the world. Because of the experience of God's action of love toward us, we are called also to act, the "sacred doing" of alleviating suffering wherever it is found. We dedicate ourselves in this New Year to sacred acts of justice and mercy, bringing grace to a hurting world, reflecting the sacred in all we do. Hear this first reading:

### **First Reading**

*Isaiah 63: 7-9 (NRSVUE)*

*Reader:* I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord,  
the praiseworthy acts of the Lord,  
because of all that the Lord has done for us  
and the great favor to the house of Israel  
that he has shown them according to his mercy,  
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

For he said, "Surely they are my people,  
children who will not act deceitfully,"  
and he became their savior  
in all their distress.

It was no messenger or angel  
but his presence that saved them;  
in his love and pity it was he who redeemed them;  
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

### **Second Reading**

*Matthew 2: 13-23 (NRSVUE)*

*Reader:* Now after [the magi] had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt and

remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

"A voice was heard in Ramah,  
wailing and loud lamentation,  
Rachel weeping for her children;  
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazarene."

## **The Message**

Sacred Doing     Pastor Kayli



**Hymn:** #5 Morning Has Broken (Hymns for the Family of God, Gold)

**1. Morning has broken, like the first morning  
Blackbird has spoken, like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!**

**2. Sweet the rains new fall, sunlit from heaven  
Like the first dew fall on the first grass  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden  
Sprung in completeness where his feet pass.**

**3. Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning  
Born of the one light Eden saw play  
Praise with elation, praise every morning  
God's recreation of the new day!**


### **Refilling the Sacred**

*Leader: We are wells of the sacred. God's presence is poured into creation in a never-ending flow of love. We enter a time of prayer that invites us to be refilled in ways that can help us pour out our love throughout the week. All we must do in this moment is open our hearts to the Holy One.*

**Prayers** Emmanuel, Emmanuel      Bob McGee


The image shows two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first two phrases: "Em - man - u - el," and "Em - man - u - el,". The second staff, starting with a measure rest labeled "5", contains the melody for the next two phrases: "His Name is Called" and "Em - man - u - el;". The notes are simple, using quarter and half notes with stems.

9



God with us, re - vealed in us;

13



His name is called Em-man - u - el.

**ALL: (Spoken) Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,  
 Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
 Christ on my right, Christ on my left,  
 Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down,  
 Christ when I arise.  
 (St. Patrick's Prayer)**

**Repeat ALL Singing: Emmanuel, Emmanuel**

### **The LORD'S PRAYER**

**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,  
 forever. Amen.**

**News about the Ministry and Mission of God's Church**

### **Offering**

### **Prayer**

God of birthing new life into the world and our lives, we bring our gifts to you and to this church and community: gifts of heart, spirit, energy, love, time,

resources, dreams, hopes, passion, compassion, meaning and purpose, and faith. We come to the manger and we bow, asking for your guidance and blessing on these gifts and on us. Deepen our commitment to you and to each other. Pour your light on these gifts, on us, and on your church and all people we pray. Amen.

**Thank you for the many ways in which you support God's work and God's people.**

### **Donate to God's Mission and Ministry at UNION UCC**

**OFFERING ENVELOPES.** If you can't attend worship, you can mail your envelopes to the church. The church address is on one side, just add a stamp.

**ELECTRONIC GIVING.** Choose to give a repetitive contribution on a regular basis (i.e weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly), or make single contributions whenever you desire in an amount of your choice. Electronic contributions are initiated from Union UCC's website (UnionUCC.org). Click on 'giving', then on 'Ways to Give' and follow the prompts. Feel free to contact John Harting 610-799-2508) or Don Penrod (610-398-2654) to answer your questions or demonstrate the process.

**MOBILE GIVING.** If you would like to give on the go, Vanco, the company that processes our e-giving transactions, has a mobile app that allows you to do so. Open your app search screen, search under "Vanco Mobile Faith \Engagement" and follow the prompts.

**AMAZON SMILE.** Donate to Union UCC, Neffs (Search by zip code 18065) while you shop <https://smile.amazon.com>

## MUSIC OFFERING

Holiday Medley Arr. Mark Hayes

### \*Offering Response

Please stand in body or spirit.

*(Sung to the tune of "What Child Is This")*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow**

**Praise God all creatures here below**

**Praise God all heavens and the earth**

**reflecting the sacred story.**

**This, this is Christ the One  
who mirrors hope for all of us.  
Haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the Word of time eternal.**

### **Reframing the Sacred**

*Leader: We too often think that something "sacred" is far away and not available to us. This Advent season, we are "reframing" the way we recognize the sacred reflected all around and through us. As we prepare to move into the world, we begin to reframe our view of the world and our circumstances, illuminating new ways of being the Christ (Anointed One) tangibly present.*

### **Benediction**

Leader: When you see lights twinkle,  
when you catch a reflection in a mirror,  
when you notice the sunlight dancing on a surface  
or a nightlight glowing in the darkness,  
let these be signs that the Christ Light is revealed  
again and again in and through this world.

Know that your brilliant presence  
is pouring more hope into a weary world.

God loved us by becoming us.  
This means you are already  
reflecting the sacred.

In the name of the Creator, Christ, and Spirit of Hope.  
Amen.

Please stand.

**\*Closing Hymn This Is A Day of New Beginnings 417 New  
Century Hymnal (Black Hymnal)**

**1. 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**

**2. 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**

**3. Then let us, with the Spirit's daring,  
step from the past and leave behind  
Our disappoint, guilt, and grieving,  
seeking new paths and sure to find.**

**4. Christ is a live, and goes before us  
to show and share what love can do  
This is a day of new beginnings,  
our God is making all things new.**

**Go, Be Light in the World Music  
Linus and Lucy Vince Guaraldi**

# EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)	
Last Week	
Calendar Year 2022 (Jan-Oct.)	\$ 309,414.00
Calendar Year 2021 (Jan-Oct.)	\$ 302,292.00
Change from Last Year	<b>2.4%</b>
Budget FY 2022 (July 2022 - June 23)	\$ 131,000.00
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (July 2022-June 23)	\$ 112,648.00
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	<b>-14.0%</b>
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>	

Attendance Last Week		
	In person	Online
8:00 am		
10:30 am	<b>28</b>	
Education Hour		

2022 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Last Week:	bs, \$
Total YTD:	5,989 lbs, \$880

## Presentations to the Glory of God

### *Spread the Good News :*

*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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