



LOOKIN' FOR...

L O V E

IN ALL THE WRONG PLACES

worshipdesignstudio.com/love

February 26, 2023

1st Sunday of Lent

Look for the Resister

***GUESTS,** Welcome to our faith community here at Union UCC. To learn more about us please visit our website at www.unionucc.org or like us on Facebook at 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.

Our church is a diverse family of believers, spiritually united in Christ, rooted in a rich heritage and growing with vitality into the future. We proclaim God's word, nurturing and inspiring dedicated Christian discipleship through worship, education, pastoral care and outreach within our community and the world.

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 Readers: 8:00 Susan Steinmann, 10:30 Devon Reese Kuharik

Ushers: 8:00 Cliff James, Carol James

10:30 Carrington Smith, Jim Lane, Jason Klinger, Susan Smith, Al Stubbmann, Karen Misera, Claire Kern, Gene Thrash

Greeters: Vicki Mayk, Ralph & Connie Gioelli

Sound: Karl Klinger

“Yet even now,” says the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting...rend your hearts and not your clothing.” — Joel 2: 12-13

The Christian scriptures offer many images of where love, grace, forgiveness, righteousness, and healing can REALLY be found. And it is not in the “usual” places. Isn’t it as true of us today as it was of the scriptural authors? Don’t we often look for wholeness and happiness in places that offer only temporary “good feelings” and satisfaction? Lent is a wonderfully reflective time to reassess where we are searching for meaning and purpose. We will move through stories of Jesus to find out who offers the “real deal.”

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

Prelude

Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us
Tune: Bradbury, William B. Bradbury
Blake Hoppes

Welcome

Threshold Moment

Solo:
Hearts open, minds awake,
change us now for heaven’s sake.
Leave us not alone in hatred’s wake.
Show us how to love.
Show us how to love.
Show us how, show us how to love.

Leader: Lent is a wonderfully reflective time to reassess where we are searching for meaning and purpose. A

question for us this year is “don’t we often look for wholeness and happiness in places that offer only temporary ‘good feelings’ and satisfaction?” We will discover that the stories of Jesus show us how to truly love. This week we hear how Jesus resists evil in the desert. We see the futility of looking for love in empty highs, in tempting fate, and in mindless adoration. Rather, as Jesus demonstrates, it is in our resistance to evil that we find true communion with God. Resistance to evil starts with our own confession of complicit acts that move us further from love. Our groaning can turn to “glad cries of deliverance” as we choose good over evil time after time — even and especially if it isn’t the “popular” thing to do.

Solo:

Eyes open, shocked awake,
much to learn from our mistakes.
Draw us closer in our heartache.
Show us how to love.
Show us how to love.
Show us how, show us how to love.

Confession and Assurance

Leader: Let us join together in opening our hearts to the love of God. Before we even utter a word, we can be assured God will offer us grace and a way forward. For this reason, we can be honest with what most pains us most about our own thoughts and actions. Let us pray:

Holy and Merciful One,
in this season of discernment we come bringing our deepest longings,
and our failed attempts at satisfying them.
We have often looked for love, for acceptance and security,
in the trappings of notoriety, popularity, and power
that diminish others in order to gain for ourselves.

**People: We yearn for lives that matter,
we desire relationships that thrive,
we want less regret.**

Leader: At times we fail to see that you have already given
us what really matters:
your love and acceptance.
You provide opportunities all around us
to make a difference in the lives of others.
You give us a fresh start each day,
inviting us to do better.

In this silence, we bring to you our pleas for openness
to a different way of living.

Silence

My friends, be assured by the Psalmist who says,
“I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.”
Let us respond together:

**All: We open our hearts, our minds, our souls, our vision
to the ways of love
created by God,
embodied in Jesus,
and already moving in us by the Spirit.
We are forgiven, loved, and freed!
Amen!**

Peace

Leader: The love and peace of Christ be with you!
People: And also with you!

Leader: I invite you to pass this love and peace to one
another by crossing your arms across your chest, indicating
love, and then opening them with the common two-finger

sign for peace, [remembering to send some of that love and peace to those worshiping remotely].

Please stand in body or spirit.

***Hymn #256 The Old Rugged Cross**

(Gold Hymnal/Hymns for the Family of God) Verses 1,2, and 4

1. On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, The emblem of suffering and shame; And I love that old cross where the dearest and best For a world of lost sinners was slain.

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, 'Til my trophies at last I lay down; I will cling to the old rugged cross, And exchange it some day for a crown.

2. O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world, Has a wondrous attraction for me; For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above To bear it to dark Calvary.

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, 'Til my trophies at last I lay down; I will cling to the old rugged cross, And exchange it some day for a crown.

4. To the old rugged cross I will ever be true, Its shame and reproach gladly bear; Then He'll call me some day to my home far away, Where His glory forever I'll share.

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, 'Til my trophies at last I lay down; I will cling to the old rugged cross, And exchange it some day for a crown.

Please be seated.

WE PROCLAIM

10:30 Worship - Story for All Ages

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

Children's Church – during 10:30 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 to 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.

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

Asus A $\frac{3}{8}$ Dm B \flat C

Go make a diff - 'rence. We can make a diff -

Dm F Asus A

'rence. Go make a diff - 'rence in the world.

Dm B \flat C Dm

Go make a diff - 'rence. We can make a diff - 'rence.

B \flat maj 7 Asus A Dm Am Am

Go make a diff - 'rence in the world.

Last time, Fine 1. 2.3.

Music Offering

This is the Day Dan Forrest

8:00 Heritage Choir

10:30 Horizon Choir

Song of Preparation for the Word

Love Us Into Fullness

Solo:

Love us into fullness,
touch us with your grace;
Jesus, in your mercy,
draw us to your face.

Testimony of Love Judy Migliore-Erdman

**ALL: Love us into fullness,
hold us in your care,
cheer us with your presence,
here and everywhere.**

Scripture Reading

Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished.

The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He

will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only God.'"

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

**ALL: Love us into fullness,
and we will be strong;
Jesus, walk beside us,
fill our hearts with song.**

The Message Pastor Kris

WE RESPOND

Prayers of the People

Leader: In this season of Lent, we will come together in prayer using an ancient form in the church. The Greek words, "Kyrie Eleison" mean "God, have mercy on us." The church has been chanting this during prayer since the early centuries of its existence. We will be led in various intercessions—prayers in categories—followed by singing this simple chant as a response to each one. The repetition of this beautiful "Kyrie" is itself a prayer. God's mercy is a gift of love, given freely to us. Listen first, and then join us to learn it:

Solo first time.

Ky-ri - e E-le-i - son, Ky-ri - e E-le-i -
son, Ky-ri - e E-le-i - son, Ky-ri - e E-le-i - son.

Prayers for the World

Pastor/Leader: Loving Creator, we come to you asking for strength to resist injustice in this world. You have created a world in which we are a global community, connected and interdependent. Show us how to love so that when one part of the human family is affected by hate, war, hunger, or disaster, we will move to right any wrongs and alleviate suffering for the sake of all. You have created a planet full of such wonder and diversity. Show us how to love this planet home as our precious dwelling, assuring the flourishing of all living things. We pray this day for ... God have mercy. In this singing we lift up this world to you with our love:

All: (Sung)
Kyrie Eleison, Kyrie Eleison
Kyrie Eleison, Kyrie Eleison

Prayers for Our Community

Loving Sovereign, we come to you asking for strength to make a difference in our communities. You created us for beloved community, bringing what we can offer and

honoring others for their contributions. You invite us to love our neighbors. Show us how to love more widely, more deeply, especially when others are hurting. We pray this day for ... God have mercy. In this singing we lift up this community to you with our love:

All: (Sung)
Kyrie Eleison, Kyrie Eleison
Kyrie Eleison, Kyrie Eleison

Prayers for Our Relationships

Loving Parent, we come to you asking for strength to make our homes and relationships places of love. You showed us what love looks like in the companionship of Jesus who invited all to his table, touched the untouchables with healing, spoke with, and drew close, those shunned by others. Open us more completely than we can imagine so that our love may break through the most difficult of situations. We pause in silence as we each lift up in our hearts the relationships that need your love. God have mercy. In this singing we lift up each other to you with our love:

All: (Sung)
Kyrie Eleison, Kyrie Eleison
Kyrie Eleison, Kyrie Eleison

Prayers for Our Selves

Lover of Our Souls, we come to you asking for strength to love ourselves. In the beginning you created us in your own image, giving us life and breath and the ability to love. And yet we find it difficult sometimes to love what you have created—to believe that you called us “good.” Help us know the lure of your love for us, so that we may be your love in

this world, in our communities, and in the lives with whom we intersect each day. God have mercy. In this singing we open ourselves to your love:

**All: (Sung)
Kyrie Eleison, Kyrie Eleison
Kyrie Eleison, Kyrie Eleison**

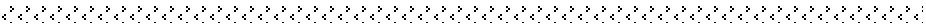
And so, as your people following in the ways of your Son, Jesus, who set the pattern of love as resistance to the temptations of fleeting fame and fortune, we pray with confidence the prayer that he taught us:

**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,
forever. Amen.**

**NURTURING LOVE:
NEWS ABOUT THE MINISTRY AND MISSION OF GOD'S
CHURCH**

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER



**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.

VENMO Union UCC now has Venmo! You can now make donations, pay for events, and support the church through this platform. Please be sure to include in the "What it's for" line what your Venmo is supporting. You can either search for @unionuccneffs

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.

Easter Mission Offering

This year the **Easter Mission Offerings** will be divided between the **Habitat for Humanity and the Jubilee Breakfast Ministry.**

Please support these two mission organizations by using the Easter Mission Offering envelope in your envelope packet, or make a note on your check or blank envelope for Easter Mission. Give online at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L->

The mission of Habitat for Humanity of the Lehigh Valley is to provide hardworking families with simple, decent, affordable housing. Since 1989, Habitat has built 131 homes for families in the Lehigh Valley.

The Jubilee Breakfast Ministry at Zion's Reformed Church in Allentown serves about 65 breakfasts to those who need a meal each Thursday, Friday, and Saturday during the coldest months of the year, November through April.

.....

Musical Offering

As the Deer Martin Nystrom
Blake Hoppes

Please stand in body or spirit.

*** Offering Response**

**ALL: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God, above, the heavenly host.
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost!**

Benediction

Leader: Go forth into the world, looking for love in all the right places!

***People: We will look for signs of Love,
making the true treasures of our lives the center of our hearts!***

***Hymn #3** Come to the Waters
Sing! Prayer and Praise

♩=144

Come, Je - sus is call - ing to you. "Reach out, take my
 hand. You'll not fall. Come, come, I am wait - ing for
 you. O'er the wa - ters of life, hear my call."
 1. "Reach out in faith, cross the wa - ters to me.
 2. "Walk out in faith, take the risk if you can.
 Your hand in mine, that's the way it should be.
 I bring you peace, come a - long, take my hand.
 Stretch out in faith, take my hand if you will.
 Step out in faith, I will car - ry you on.
 Wa - ters be calm! Wind be still."
 You may be weak; I am strong."

Postlude Music

Holy, Holy, Holy
Blake Hoppes

Tune: Nicaea John B. Dykes

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)	
Last Week	\$9,166.00
Calendar Year 2023 (Jan)	\$37,004.00
Calendar Year 2022 (Jan)	\$29,651.00
Change from Last Year	+24.8%
Budget FY 2022 (<i>July 2022-Jan. 23</i>)	\$261,970.00
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (<i>July 2022-Jan 23</i>)	\$248,782.00
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	-5.0%
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>	

Attendance Last Week		
	In person	Online
8:00 am	46	98
10:30 am	119	78
Education Hour	4	
2022 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:		
Last Week:	bs, \$50	
Total YTD:	924lbs, \$150	
Souper Bowl	\$547.00	
Blanket Sunday	\$754.00	

Presentations to the Glory of God

*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