



LOOKIN' FOR...

L O V E

IN ALL THE WRONG PLACES

worshipdesignstudio.com/love

March 5, 2023
2nd Sunday of Lent
Look for the Helper

Jazz Ensemble, 10:30 Baptism

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 on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Lay Readers: 8:00 Doug Albert, 10:30 Doug Kuntz

Ushers: 8:00 Phil Wehr, Ron Pope

10:30 Aften Hamm, Scott Nagle, Tami Herzog Wassum, Suzanne Lorah, Pat Warmkessel, Don Penrod, Jennifer Haley, Suzanne Schneider

Sound: Doug Albert

“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

As the Deer Martin Nystrom
Jazz Ensemble

Welcome

Threshold Moment

Solo: Olivia Rice

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: Oftentimes we believe that we must “deserve” the love we receive. We work, work, work to get approval and to feel like our life is justified — pulling our

own weight, thinking that whatever life we create, and love we get, is only what we ourselves can conjure up. But the scriptures today offer the image of God as our “keeper” — always helping, always present.

Nicodemus has followed all the rules and done everything HE can do, and yet he is still looking for love — for tangible connection with God. Jesus says that he must be born “of the Spirit.” It’s not all up to simply “doing the right thing!” It is about allowing the Spirit to help birth love in our lives.

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 formulas that will assure success
at the expense of staying tuned to the Spirit’s nudge.

***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,
“The Lord will keep your life... your going out and your
coming in
from this time on and forevermore.”
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 #258** When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
(Gold Hymnal/Hymns for the Family of God)

- 1. When I survey the wondrous cross On which the Prince of glory died, My richest gain I count but loss, And pour contempt on all my pride.**
- 2. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, Save in the death of Christ my God; All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.**
- 3. See, from His head, His hands, His feet, Sorrow and love flow mingled down: Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, Or thorns compose so rich 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 Dm B^b 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^b C Dm

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

B^bmaj⁷ Asus A Dm Am Am

Last time, Fine 1. 2.3.

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

Music Offering

I'll Fly Away Albert E. Brumley

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Lochlan Jordan Kuharik, child of Devon and John Kuharik

Sponsors: Brynn Buskirk, Kane Kuharik, and Connor Kuharik

Rowan Jeffrey Frey, child of Lora and Jeffrey Frey

Sponsors: Scott and Laura Schenkel

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

All: We promise our love, support, and care.

Celtic Alleluia O'Carroll and Walker #613 With One Voice



Testimony of Love Maria Beltz

Scripture Reading

John 3: 1-17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God."

Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above."

Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?"

Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you,

'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?"

Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

The Message Pastor Kris

Hymn #107 Amazing Grace Gold Hymnal

- 1. Amazing grace! How sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but now am found, Was blind but now I see.**
- 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears relieved; How precious did that grace appear The hour I first believed!**

3. The Lord has promised good to me, His word my hope secures; He will my shield and portion be As long as life endures.

WE RESPOND

Prayers of the People

Leader: In this season of Lent, we are joining together in prayer using an ancient form in the church. The Greek words, "Kyrie Eleison" mean "God, have mercy on us" and we learned a simple chant last week that we will be repeating throughout Lent. We will be led in various intercessions—prayers in categories—followed our sung "Kyrie" 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.

Solo first time.

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

5
son, Ky-ri - e E-le-i - son, Ky-ri - e E-le-i - son.

Prayers for the World

Leader: Loving Creator, we come to you asking for the strength of your help in this world. We struggle as we find so much to be chaotic and overwhelming. You set this world in motion and gave us the ability to co-create the future with you. Help us trust your presence in the midst of all we do not understand. Show us how to love especially when all is not

within our control. 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 the strength of your help in our communities. We do not see things from the same perspective and it is causing divisions among us. Show us how to love across these divides of how things "ought to be." So many are ailing from circumstances of body, mind, and spirit beyond their control. 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 the strength of your help in our homes and relationships. Open us to feel the bond of your Spirit between us and among us, especially when we are not sure how to help each other. We pause in silence as we each lift up in our hearts the relationships in our lives that need your love and transformation...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 the strength of your help to love ourselves. Help us to break out of the prisons we have made for ourselves, believing that we have to work our way into love and acceptance. Help us really know deep down in our bones that it is your already-present and ever-present love that is the bedrock of our lives and that this love can be multiplied through us 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**

Leader: And so, as your people following in the ways of your Son, Jesus, who set the pattern of love in moving beyond control into the Mystery of the Spirit, 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-Z51X/campaign/C-12H6T>

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

Ramblin Blues Nick Homes
Jazz Ensemble

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 The Helper,
knowing that God is ever present, urging our choice for
love!**

***Hymn #677 They'll Know we are Christians**
Gold Hymnal

**1. We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored:**

**And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

**2. We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land:**

**And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

**3. We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
And we'll guard each man's dignity and save ach man's
pride:**

**And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

Postlude Music

Chitlins con Carne Kenny Burrell
Jazz Ensemble

8 & 10:30

Jazz Ensemble:

**Blake Hoppes-piano, Malcolm Mackenzie – Bass,
Mike Baer-guitar, Mitchell Roth – Trumpet,
Matt Gerry – Trumpet,**

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)		Attendance Last Week		
Last Week	\$6,954.13		In person	Online
Calendar Year 2023 (Jan)	\$37,004.00	8:00 am	30	
Calendar Year 2022 (Jan)	\$29,651.00	10:30 am	80	
Change from Last Year	+24.8%	Education Hour	5	
Budget FY 2022 (July 2022-Jan. 23)	\$261,970.00	2022 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:		
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (July 2022-Jan 23)	\$248,782.00	Last Week:	255lbs, \$50	
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	-5.0%	Total YTD:	1179lbs, \$150	
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>		Souper Bowl	\$1,066.00	
		Blanket Sunday	\$997.00	

Presentations to the Glory of God

In honor of Lochlan Jordan Kuharik on the occasion of his baptism. From Sally Saltzer

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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