



How precious are your thoughts about me, O God.
They cannot be numbered!
I can't even count them; they outnumber the grains of sand!
Psalm 139: 17-18

July 2, 2023
10:30 Worship
American Heritage Sunday

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, fellowship, 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: Maria Beltz

Ushers: Eric Minnich, Scott Nagle, Tami Wassum, Don Penrod, Jennifer Haley, Suzanne Schneider

Greeters: Jen Haley, Suzanne Schneider, Tracey & Rob Bilger

Sound: Dawn Dengler

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

Prelude

God of Our Fathers by George W. Warren
Mitchell Roth, Assistant Instrumental Director
With Justin Bower trumpet, Andy Hill trumpet,
Garet Hill alto saxophone, Mike Baer trombone,
Lucas Maxwell alto saxophone

Welcome

Preparing for Worship

Leader: Come into God's love. God's love stretches wide, ready to embrace all with love. Come thirsty for the presence of God, ready to satisfy every thirst. Come to find a caring touch, ready to know grace in this community. Come together, full of welcome. Ready to drink deeply in God's presence. Come, let us worship God together.

Prayer of Illumination

Leader: Water is a blessing; so is your word, O God. We open our hearts and minds to your spirit. May we drink it in, may it flow within us and around us, and take up residency in our souls. Amen.

Response Song #391 In the Midst of New Dimensions
Black Hymnal/New Century Hymnal

ALL: In the midst of new dimension,
In the face of changing ways,
Who will lead the pilgrim peoples
Wandering in their separate ways?
God of rainbows, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
We your people, ours the journey
Now and ever, now and ever, now and ever more.

Passing the Peace

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: And no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,

ALL: And, no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,

Leader: God loves you and so do we.

ALL: God loves you and so do we.

Leader: Please stand and greet each other, sharing God's love and welcome.

We send our love to those worshiping at home too.

Please stand in body or spirit.

***Opening Hymn *Hymn: America, the Beautiful #690
Gold Hymnal (Hymns for the Family of God)**

**1. O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!**

**America! America!
God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!**

**2. O beautiful for pilgrim feet
Whose stern impassioned stress**

**A thoroughfare for freedom beat
Across the wilderness.**

**America! America!
God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control,
Thy liberty in law.**

**3. O beautiful for heroes proved
In liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved,
And mercy more than life.**

**America! America!
May God thy gold refine
Till all success be nobleness,
And ev'ry gain divine.**

Please be seated.

During Summer Worship:

***A reminder to pick up your Children's Activity Bulletins at the door when you arrive.**

***Mornings with Ms. Tiffany**

Kids are invited to join Ms. Tiffany for stories, activities, crafts and fun every Sunday at 10:30 worship through August 20. Pastors invite children forward to leave with Ms. Tiffany for a time designed just for them!

Children will be in the basement (or the gazebo when we're in the grove) and will return before worship is over. If worship ends early, parents are welcome to meet their children downstairs.

During the School Year:

Education Hour and Faith Formation for All Ages – 9:15-10:15am on Sundays

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

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

The musical score is written in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "Go make a diff - 'rence. We can make a diff - 'rence. Go make a diff - 'rence in the world. Go make a dif - f'rence. We can make a dif - f'rence. Go make a dif - f'rence in the world. Go make a diff - 'rence in the world." The score includes various chords such as Asus, A, Dm, Bb, C, F, and Bbmaj7. It features a repeat sign at the beginning, a double bar line with repeat dots, and a double bar line with repeat dots and first/second endings. The word "Fine" is written above the final measure.

Scripture Reading Matthew 28:16-20

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came

and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

2 Corinthians 13: 11-14

Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

Genesis 1: 26-31

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth."

God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food."

And it was so.

God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning,

the sixth day.

Psalm 8

O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.
Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,
to silence the enemy and the avenger.
When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established;
what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?
Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor.
You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet,
all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.
O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Favorite Hymns:

In the Garden

**I come to the garden alone
While the dew is still on the roses
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear
The Son of God discloses
And He walks with me
And He talks with me
And He tells me I am His own
And the joy we share as we tarry there
None other has ever known**

Blessed Assurance

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!

Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God
Born of his Spirit, washed in His blood
This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long
This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long

How Great Thou Art
Oh Lord, my God
When I, in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder
Thy power throughout the universe displayed
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art

The Old Rugged Cross
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 (rugged cross)
Till my trophies at last I lay down
I will cling to the old rugged cross
And exchange it some day for a crown

For The Beauty of the Earth
For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies.
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
this, our hymn of grateful praise

The Message For the Love of Creation
Geoffrey Brace, Guest Preacher and Member
Geoff has been around church most of his life. He's served on the Board of Directors of the United Church of Christ (and a few denominational predecessor boards), was PNEC Conference Moderator, attended at least eight UCC General Synods (including one on his honeymoon), did terms on local congregation governing bodies, and as has been spotted cooking and doing dishes in a few church kitchens. Geoff, his wife Sara and their son Isaac are members of Union UCC. Geoff was elected to the Lehigh County Board of Commissioners in 2013 and is currently the Chair.

Entering into Prayer

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.**

PRAYER SONG RESPONSE

#107 Amazing Grace Gold Hymnal/Hymns for the Family of
God

ALL: 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.

NEWS ABOUT THE MINISTRY AND MISSION OF GOD'S CHURCH

OFFERING

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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. 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.

Note: When we worship in the grove please share your offering at the welcome tables when you arrive.

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Musical Offering

Keep Us Safe

Luke Laird, Hilary Lindsey, Shane McAnally & Carrie Underwood

Olivia Rice

Please stand in body or spirit.

Offering Response

#562 Take My Gifts Black Hymnal/New Century Hymnal

**ALL: Take my gifts and let me love you,
God who first of all loved me,
Gave me light and food and shelter,
gave me life and set me free,
Now because your love has touched me,
I have love to give away,
Now the bread of love is rising,
loaves of love to multiply.**

Benediction

Leader: God goes with us and is always on hand to revive and restore us. Go in the knowledge that God will always love you. Go ready to shower God's love on all you encounter on your way. Amen.

***Hymn Let There Be Peace on Earth**

#681 Gold Hymnal (Hymns for the Family of God) adapted

**Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth
The peace that was meant to be.
With God our Creator
Family all are we.
Let us walk with each other
In perfect harmony.**

**Let peace begin with me,
Let this be the moment now.
With every step I take**

**Let this be my solemn vow
To take each moment and live
Each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me.**

Postlude Music

God Bless America

Mitchell Roth & Blake Hoppes

Irving Berlin

Summer Coffee Hour will continue on Sundays after 10:30 worship. Stop by in Memorial Hall for some cool lemonade, juice, water, and a snack and visit with friends and pastors.

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)		Attendance Last Week	
Last Week	\$4,981.00		In person
Calendar Year 2023 (Jan-May)	\$162,264.00	8:00 am	n/a
Calendar Year 2022 (Jan-May)	\$158,771.00	10:30 am	151
Change from Last Year	2.2%	Education Hour	
Budget FY 2022-23 (July-May)	\$397,230.00	2022 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (July-May))	\$374,108.00	Last Week:	\$, 160lbs
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	-5.8%	Total YTD:	2,632lbs, \$635
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>		OGHS	\$605.42

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.

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