



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 23, 2023**  
**10:30 Worship**  
**Christmas in July**

**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.

***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: Vicki Mayk

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

Greeters: Al Stubbmann, Andy & Jan Dyszel

Sound: Karl Klinger

Assisting: Susan Glosan, Member and Seminarian

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

### **Prelude**

Jingle Bells

**Matt Gerry, Blake Hoppes**

### **Welcome**

**When we worship in the sanctuary the offering will be collected by our ushers in your seats.**

**When we worship outside in the grove the offering is collected at the welcome tables when you arrive or leave worship.**

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

### **Preparing for Worship**

Leader: Welcome to a celebration like no other! Merry Christmas in July!

**All: Today we remember the night of the Holy Birth!**

Leader: Let the love of Jesus be born in your hearts and spirits!

**All : We open our hearts to receive this blessed gift, Loving God.**

Leader: Rejoice, good friends, the Good News is here!

**All: Christ our Savior is Born! Hallelujah! Amen.**

### **Prayer of Illumination**

**Leader:** God of Surprising Love and Hope, we come to the manger, gazing lovingly on the Child born to bring hope to the world. Open our hearts as we hear the story anew. Help us to be guided by the Light of Jesus Christ, that we may feel the power of your love and bring that love, with joy, to all we meet. Amen.

**Response Song #391 In the Midst of New Dimensions**

Black Hymnal/New Century Hymnal

**ALL: In the midst of new dimensions,  
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.**

**\*Carol #193** O Come All Ye Faithful (Gold  
Hymnal, Hymns for the Family of God)

**1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,**

**O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels;**

**O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.**

**2. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
O sing, al ye citizens of heaven above;  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;**

**O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.**

**3. Ye, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,  
O Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;**

**O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.**

**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 room 100 (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'rence Angrisano, Tomaszek #199  
Sing! Prayer and Praise

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature (C). 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 dif - f'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 and a double bar line with repeat dots at the end. The word "Fine" is written above the final measure of the fourth staff.

**Scripture Reading  
Luke 2: 1-20**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph

also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

## **Music Offering**

### **Go Tell It on the Mountain**

**Andy Hill, Matt Gerry**

## **The Message**

Carrie Beleno, Visitation Pastor

### **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.**

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collected by our ushers in your seats.**

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collected at the welcome tables when you arrive or leave  
worship.**

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

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





## 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: May the light that began at creation, continued through the witness of the prophets, and has come to fullness at the Birth of Jesus Christ, be in your hearts and minds. As you go from this place may your spirits be filled with joy and hope; for God's precious Light has been given for you. Go in Peace and know that God's peace always goes with you. Amen.

\* **Carol** Joy To The World

**Fanfare Arranged by Matt Gerry**

**Trumpets: Matt Gerry, Andy Hill, Mitchell Roth**

**ALL:**

**1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come:**

**Let earth receive her King;**

**Let every heart prepare Him room,**

**And heaven and nature sing.**

**And heaven and nature sing.**

**And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**2. Joy to the world! The Savior reigns:**

**Let men their songs employ;**

**While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains**

**Repeat the sounding joy,**

Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.

### Postlude Music

Blake Hoppes

**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	\$9,623.57		In person
Calendar Year 2023 (Jan-May)	\$162,264.00	8:00 am	<b>n/a</b>
Calendar Year 2022 (Jan-May)	\$158,771.00	10:30 am	<b>143</b>
Change from Last Year	<b>2.2%</b>	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:	100\$, 155lbs
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	<b>-5.8%</b>	Total YTD:	3,187lbs, \$735
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>		OGHS	\$665.00

## 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.*

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