



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 30, 2023
10:30 Worship in the Grove

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: Brynn Buskirk

Ushers:

Greeters: Brynn & Jon Buskirk, Sally Saltzer

Sound: Dawn Dengler, Karl Klinger

Jazz Ensemble:

Blake Hoppes-piano, Malcolm Mackenzie – Bass, Mitchell Roth – Trumpet, Matt Gerry – Trumpet, Andy Hill - Trumpet, Garet Hill, Saxophone

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

Prelude

Delta Blues Nick Homes

Jazz Ensemble

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: Come into this time and place, and let love change us. Let love open us to new possibilities and weave us together with our ancestors into the fabric of God's unfolding story. Come, O Holy One, journey into this moment with us.

Prayer of Illumination

Leader: Holy One, your love for us is hidden and shown every day. Your love shimmers in our experiences; your love flourishes in our community; your love bubbles up, yeast-like, in our midst. May that shimmering, bubbly love be shown here, among this people. Teach us to be the love that is so needed to bring your realm fully into being. 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.

***Hymn #4 Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee**
Black Hymnal/New Century Hymnal

**1. Joyful, joyful, we adore you, God of glory, God of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before you,**

2. opening to the sun above.

**Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the storms of doubt away,**

Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

**2. All your works with joy surround you,
earth and heaven reflect your rays,
Stars and angels sign around you,
center of unbroken praise.**

**Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain,
teach us what our praise should be.**

**3. You are giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blessed,
Well spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Loving Spirit, Father, Mother, all who love belong to you;
Teach us how to love each other,
by that love our joy renew.**

**4. Mortals, join the mighty chorus
which the morning stars began,
Boundless love is reigning o'er us,
reconciling race and clan.**

**Ever singing, move we forward,
faithful in the midst of strife,**

Joyful music leads us onward in the triumph song of life.

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

Asus A $\frac{3}{4}$ 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. —

— Go make a dif - f'rence. — We can make a dif -

— f'rence. — Go make a dif - f'rence in the world. — *Fine*

B \flat maj 7 Asus A Dm Am Am

Last time, Fine 1. 2.3.

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

Music Offering

For the Beauty of the Earth F.S. Pierpoint, John Rutter
Amanda & Julie Lane

Scripture Reading

Romans 8:26-39

8:26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-48

(Jesus) put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened." "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

Music Offering

Poor Wayfaring Stranger:

Jazz Ensemble

The Message Rev. Randy D'Angelo

Randy is ordained in Metropolitan Community Churches and currently serves as Director of Administration at Moravian Theological Seminary in Bethlehem. He is also married to long-term Union UCC member Chris Hamm.

Music Offering

Come Thou Fount Arr. D'Angelo
Randy D'Angelo and Chris Hamm

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.

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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

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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.

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Musical Offering

What a Friend We Have in Jesus Scriven, Converse
Jazz Ensemble

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: Go into the world and invite all voices to be heard.
Go into the world and listen closely to all stories. We go
together into the world transformed by love. Let us go into
this world together, made new. Amen.

*** Hymn When the Saints**

**Oh, when the saints go marching in
Oh, when the saints go marching in
Dear Lord, I want to be in that number
When the saints go marching in**

Postlude Music

When the Saints Al Hirt
Jazz Ensemble

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	\$7,244.00		In person
Calendar Year 2023 (Jan-May)	\$162,264.00	8:00 am	
Calendar Year 2022 (Jan-May)	\$158,771.00	10:30 am	91
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:	
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	-5.8%	Total YTD:	3,187lbs, \$735
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>		OGHS	\$665.00

Presentations to the Glory of God

In memory of Walt Disney

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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