

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 9, 2023
10:30 Worship in the Grove
Blessing of the Animals

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: Don Penrod
Ushers: Carol James, Ruth Ruch, Janice Metzger,
Julie Johnson, Laura Kohler, Ralph Gioielli, Connie Gioielli
Greeters: Carol & Ron Pope, Johanna & Greg Zellner
Sound: Pat Sorg, Karl Klinger

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

Prelude

He Is Lord—arranged by Gregg Sewell

Welcome to our Guest Organist, Susan Cervin – thank you!

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 on in and find some rest!

ALL: We need that rest, for we are weary!

Leader: Come on in and discover peace!

ALL: We need peace, for our spirits are weighed down by troubles.

Leader: You have come to the right place! Our Lord is here, waiting for you.

ALL: Thanks be to God, who brings us rest and peace. AMEN.

Prayer of Illumination

Leader: Lord of peace and hope, we open our hearts to you this day. Be with us as we hear your words of inspiration and healing. Guide our hearts and spirits as we seek to be witnesses to your redeeming and reconciling love. 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 #4 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You
(New Century Hymnal, Black Hymnal)**

**1. Joyful, joyful, we adore you,
God of glory, God of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before you,
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 sing 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 $\text{\textcircled{S}}$ 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. —

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

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

B^bmaj⁷ Asus A Dm Am Am

Last time, Fine 1. 2.3.

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

Scripture Reading Romans 7:15-25a

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with my mind I am a slave to the law of God, but with my flesh I am a slave to the law of sin.

From The Message:

I can anticipate the response that is coming: "I know that all God's commands are spiritual, but I'm not. Isn't this also your experience?" Yes. I'm full of myself—after all, I've spent a long time in sin's prison. What I don't understand about myself is that I decide one way, but then I act another, doing things I absolutely despise. So if I can't be trusted to figure out what is best for myself and then do it, it becomes obvious that God's command is necessary. But I need something *more*! For if I know the law but still can't keep it, and if the power of sin within me keeps sabotaging my best intentions, I obviously need help! I realize that I don't have what it takes. I can will it, but I can't *do* it. I decide to do good, but I don't *really* do it; I decide not to do bad, but then I do it anyway. My decisions, such as they are, don't result in actions. Something

has gone wrong deep within me and gets the better of me every time. It happens so regularly that it's predictable. The moment I decide to do good, sin is there to trip me up. I truly delight in God's commands, but it's pretty obvious that not all of me joins in that delight. Parts of me covertly rebel, and just when I least expect it, they take charge. I've tried everything and nothing helps. I'm at the end of my rope. Is there no one who can do anything for me? Isn't that the real question? The answer, thank God, is that Jesus Christ can and does. He acted to set things right in this life of contradictions where I want to serve God with all my heart and mind, but am pulled by the influence of sin to do something totally different.

The Message Old Self, New Self Pastor Kris

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.

Blessing of the Animals Prayer

One: We gather here today in the beauty of God's creation and give thanks that we have been made partners in the caretaking of this world. We gather here today alongside the creatures of the earth; Those that fly overhead, Those that creep below on the ground, Those who bring joy to our homes, Those that fill us with awe and delight.

ALL: We gather here today as a part of creation, filled with the breath of God and made of the dust of the earth.

One: May God bless the animals of the earth and sea and air with security of habitat, plentiful food and clean water. May God bless creatures that are endangered with our concern and protection. May God bless our efforts to ensure that no creature is exploited or forgotten.

ALL: We ask God's blessings for all creatures of the earth, those known to us and those yet to be discovered.

One: May God bless the animals that provide service to us. Protect animals that assist our police and armed forces, as well as those who serve as therapy or assistance animals.

ALL: We ask God's blessing for the interdependent web of creation, and to make us mindful of all the ways we depend on animals.

One: May God bless companion animals. We give thanks for the comfort, play, and joy they bring us. May God bless the memories of beloved pets that have died.

ALL: We ask God to keep all of creation in the divine arms of redemptive love.

One: May God make us instruments of God's peace;

ALL: Where there is hatred, let us sow love; Where there is injury, pardon; Where there is doubt, faith; Where there is

despair, hope; Where there is darkness, light; Where there is sadness, joy. Amen.

A Time of Blessing of the Animals

Please bring your pet forward to one of the pastors for a blessing.

If you brought a picture or a stuffed animal or would like to come forward to represent your pet, we can provide a blessing for that as well.

Music Offering

The King of Love My Shepherd Is– Arr. Lani Smith
Sue Cervin

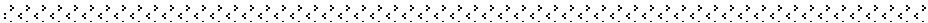
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NEWS ABOUT THE MINISTRY AND MISSION OF GOD'S CHURCH

OFFERING



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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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: Weary travelers, go now in peace with the love of Christ in your hearts. You are released from your burdens!

Go with joy to serve and love God and to love and serve
each other. 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

Jig Fugue– Dietrich Buxtehude
Sue Cervin

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	\$4,665.00		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	100
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:	\$, lbs
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	-5.8%	Total YTD:	2,632lbs, \$635
<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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