



Resurrection Story: Transformed

May 19, 2024

8am and 10:30am Worship

10:30 Baptism

GUESTS, Welcome to our faith community. To learn more about us please visit our website at www.unionucc.org or like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/unionneffs. Let us know you're here by completing the Welcome Card in the racks in front of you and hand it to a pastor or drop it in the offering plate.

Vision Statement

UNION UCC: RELEVANT, ENGAGED, and GROWING

Mission Statement

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.

***No matter who you are or where you on life's journey,
you are welcome here.***

Union UCC is an Open and Affirming (ONA) Community.

Lay Reader: 8am Maria Beltz, 10:30 Devon Reese Kuharik
Ushers: 8am Debbie Romig, Connie Gioielli, Dixie Gross
10:30 am Deb Wenner, Maryann Puia, C Gloria Toner,
Carol Stout, Marianne Kitzmiller, Donna Christman, Brian Horwith
Greeters: Ron Snyder, Doug and Angie Kuntz
Sound: Karl Klinger

GATHERING AT THE GATE

“I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.”

— John 11: 25-26, NRSVUE

The Easter Season is a time of celebrating all the ways in which resurrection is possible in our lives. We can be in need of rising out of the depth of imprisonment, addiction, poverty, illness, and oppression — not just physically and literally, but also spiritually. What keeps us locked up inside? What holds us back from the joy of life? What binds us, keeping us from the fullness of who God created us to be? Join us for powerful testimonies of courage, kindness, strength, and overcoming — Resurrection Stories — from those who have found “resurrection” in their lives. It might just inspire you to unlock your own rising up!

Prelude Music

Sing Your Blues Away

Wallace B. Varner Arr. Stan Whitmire

Blake Hoppes

Welcome

The Collective Story of Resurrection

Leader: The Spirit is alive and moves among us as it did in the early church! We come to the end of our series, “Resurrection Stories,” in which we have celebrated that new life is possible, that transformation can happen no matter how dead we have felt inside or how difficult our circumstances might be. Today we will commit ourselves to some important and concrete goals for our mission in the

world. We are a church called to mobilize to alleviate suffering and proclaim resurrection hope through the power of the Holy Spirit!

They were all gathered in one place...

ALL: We have learned that stories of resurrection are best witnessed in community.

Rise Up in Us

Amanda Udis-Kessler

3 Rise up in us and we will rise from
6 death in - to a new - found life: from bond - age freed, from
9 harm re - leased, from ill - ness healed, as one in peace. When
12 all is lost our hearts are warmed, our hope re - stored, our
15 lives trans - formed. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text and music © 2024 Amanda Udis-Kessler. All rights reserved.
Email: amanda@amandaudiskessler.com New hymns: queersacredmusic.com
Permission is given for free use of this worship song.

Please share it with clergy, musicians, and other worship planners for their possible use. Thank you.

Leader: From heaven there came the rush of a wind and it filled that place where they were.

**ALL: The wind of the Spirit has been blowing among us.
Holy Spirit, you are welcome here!**

Leader: Flames appeared and rested upon each of them,
as their hearts burned with love.

**ALL: We have witnessed God's refining fire, changing lives
and renewing hope.**

Leader: They were speaking different languages but each
could understand the other.

**ALL: Pain, suffering, as well as love and comfort are universal
languages.**

Leader: Some thought they were filled with new wine.

**ALL: It is possible to feel joy beyond comprehension when
just one life is saved,
when just one soul transforms.**

Leader: But Peter reminded them of the words of the proph-
et Joel:

"I will pour out my spirit on all people!"

**All: We believe the Spirit will revive us
and we will dream dreams again
and envision a better world for all people.**

Leader: This is a Word of Hope for the people who long for it.

All: Thanks be to the Living Word.

– based on Acts 2: 1-21

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

Opening Hymn

#475 God's Eye Is on the Sparrow

Black Hymnal/New Century Hymnal

**1. Why should I feel discouraged,
why should the shadows come,**

**Why should my heart be lonely
and long for heaven and home,
When God is ever my portion?**

My constant friend will be:

**God's eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me;
God's eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me.**

**Chorus: I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free,
God's eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me.**

**2. Let not your heart be troubled,
Christ's tender word I hear,
And resting on God's goodness,
I lose my doubts and fears;
Though by the path...**

God leads me but one step I may see:

**God's eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me;
God's eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me.**

Chorus

**3. Whenever I am tempted, whenever clouds arise,
When song gives place to sighing,
When hope within me dies,
I then draw close to my Savior,
From care I am set free:**

**God's eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me;
God's eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me.**

Chorus

The Key to Peace

Know that the Spirit is working in and through all of us.
Because of this, we can be honest about our lives, our

struggles, and the things that keep us locked up.

This is the key to peace: as soon as truth is spoken and the desire for liberation is known, Divine Love begins the process of resurrecting your life.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you can know liberation.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you can know liberation.

Let's sing our Easter Alleluia and pass the peace of Jesus Christ *[making sure to greet those worshiping remotely]*.

Halle, Halle
#236 Black Hymnal/New Century Hymnal

All (sung):
Halle, halle, halle-luya!
Halle, halle, halle-luya!
Halle, halle, halle-luya!
Halle-luya, halle-luya!

REPEAT

Please be seated.

Music Offering

I Want Jesus to Walk With Me Spiritual Arr. Joel Raney

8:00 Heritage Choir

10:30am Horizon Choir

10:30 Worship Children's Time

TODAY Kids stay in worship. Be sure to get your activity bag at the door.

Starting next Sunday at 10:30 worship – Times with Ms. Tiffany. Start worship with your family and then leave at the Children's time with Ms. Tiffany for a time just for you with

activities, Bible story, crafts, and more! Kids return to the families by the end of worship or can be found in Room 100 or at the Gazebo when we're in the grove.

Starting in September:

Children's Church – during 10:30am Worship for ages 3-grade 5. Kids start in worship with their family and are invited forward for a children's time, They then leave with Ms. Tiffany and return before worship is over.

Kids are invited to the Education Hour and Faith Formation for All Ages – 9:15-10:15am on Sundays, ages 3 to grade 7.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Grace Elizabeth Daluisio child of Hannah and Mark Daluisio Jr.

Sponsors: Bryan Daluisio, Adam Daluisio, Sarah Withrow, Charlie Withrow

Mark Anthony Daluisio III child of Hannah and Mark Daluisio Jr.

Sponsor: Bryan Daluisio, Adam Daluisio, Sarah Withrow, Charlie Withrow

Joseph Paul Frey child of Lora and Jeffrey Frey

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

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

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



Notes on Transformation

Scripture

Deuteronomy 31:6-8

Be strong and bold; have no fear or dread of them, because it is the LORD your God who goes with you; he will not fail you or forsake you.” Then Moses summoned Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel: “Be strong and bold, for you are the one who will go with this people into the land that the LORD has sworn to their ancestors to give them; and you will put them in possession of it. It is the LORD who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.”

Matthew 6:25-34

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. “So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.

A Resurrection Story

Don't Worry, Don't Be Afraid

Guest Preacher: Brad Hackett

Brad Hackett is a member of Union UCC and a former President of Consistory. He has been the head cross country and track and field coach at Muhlenberg College for the past 25 years. Hackett is also a guest lay preacher, frequently preaching at UCC churches throughout the Penn Northeast Conference.

Responding to Liberation

Prayers of the People

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.**

Opportunities to Live Resurrected

NEWS ABOUT THE MINISTRY AND MISSION OF GOD'S CHURCH AT UNION



OFFERING

**Thank you for the many ways you give of yourself to God's
ministry and mission here at Union.**

Because of YOU our church changes lives....

Here are some of the ways you can share your financial generosity at Union.

• **ELECTRONIC GIVING** <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z51X/home> or use the QR code with your cell phone.

Choose an ongoing regular donation or a single donation with your credit or debit card. (Help us with fees if you can.)



Electronic Giving

• **FREE Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement app** Look for our church Union United Church of Christ, Neffs, PA and register your information to contribute.



Vanco Mobile

• **Venmo @unionuccneffs** Make a donation or pay for a fundraiser or event. Complete “What’s this for?” See QR code.

• **Cash or checks (to “Union UCC”)** Place in the offering plate with a member offering envelope or guest envelope (in the seat racks) or drop in the mail if you’re not in person.



Venmo

Contact John Harting (610-799-2508) or Don Penrod (610-972-8719) or Pastor Kris if you have questions or if you’d like to learn more about other giving options or legacy gifts to Union.

Music Offering

The Lord’s Prayer Albert Hay Malotte

Blake Hoppes

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

*Offering Response

Sung to the Tune I Love to Tell the Story

**ALL (sung); The Savior of our stories
has brought his peace to you;
now go and tell the story,**

**for others need it too.
To ev'ry one who's hurting
ring out the gospel call;
proclaim that Christ is risen
and grants his peace to all.**

**I love to tell the story;
'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.**

***Benediction**

Whatever binds you, whatever locks you up,
whatever needs a turn-around in your life,
can be transformed,
for we believe our stories can be rewritten each and every
day.
We know it isn't this easy or quick, but let this be a vision of
your life resurrected.

And now, may you go into the world,
extending life-energy in all the ways you discover you can,
for yourself, for others, for the world.
And may the God who created you to be transformed into
new life,
the Christ who showed you what resurrection looks like,
and the Spirit who is transforming your life even now,
be with you now and evermore.

Amen.

**There are baskets of keys at the entrance doors. Please feel
free to take one with you as you unlock your resurrection
stories of new life, healing, hope, and joy.**

**ALL (Sung): Rise up in us and we will rise
 From death into a newfound life:
 From bondage freed, from harm released,
 From illness healed, as one in peace.
 When all is lost our hearts are warmed,
 Our hope restored, our lives transformed.
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

***Closing Hymn #4 Spirit, Fill Me Sing! Prayer and Praise**

♩=85

1. Spir - it come and fill me, fill me with your peace,
 come and fill us, fill us with your peace,

fill me with your joy and your love. Spir-it come and show me,
 fill us with your joy and your love. Spir-it come and show us,

show me how to care, show me how to share your light.
 show us how to care, show us how to share your light.

Help me give my hand to those in need... Let my heart be o-pen to... re-
 Help us give our hands to those in need... Let our hearts be o-pen to... re-

-ceive. When we share your love, we can work to - geth-er to
 -ceive. When we share your love, we can work to - geth-er to

C⁷ F Am⁷ G⁷ G⁷ C
 heal this bro - ken world. 2. & 3. Spir - it light.
 heal this bro - ken world.

Postlude
 His Eye is on the Sparrow
 Civilla Martin, Charles Gabriel
Blake Hoppes

Worship Theme ©www.worshipdesignstudio.com

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)	
Last Week:	
Calendar Year 2024 (Jan.-April)	\$ 141,275.00
Calendar Year 2023 (Jan.-April)	\$ 138,705.00
Change from Last Year	1.9%
Budget FY 2023-24 (July-April)	\$ 372,070.00
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (July-April)	\$ 361,368.00
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	-2.9%
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>	

Attendance Last Week	
8 AM	31
10:30 AM	114
Online Views	216
Breathe	10

2024 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Last Week:	\$, 0lbs
Total YTD:	\$875, 2,725lbs

Presentations to the Glory of God

In Memory of Walt Disney

Good News Sponsor— for \$20 help us cover the costs of advertising on social media, mailings, and local papers.
Children’s Bulletin sponsor— for \$8 cover the cost of bulletins for children.

Send to Union UCC through your offering envelope or online marked Spread the Good News or Children’s Bulletin. Contact Marissa to sign up for a certain date or to sponsor in honor or memory of someone.

<p>CCLI LICENSE # 1523377 / Streaming # 20407732 One License #A714125 / Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #A714125</p>
