

Union Congregational United Church of Christ



At Union, we are all the body of Christ together:
Through our voices, Christ is still speaking
Through our hands, Christ is still serving
Through our hearts, Christ is still loving



June 30, 2024

Our sanctuary is equipped with a hearing loop. You can access the loop by activating the T-coil in your hearing aid. If you do not have a T-coil, you can request a portable receiver from an usher.



Welcome to Union Church!

- Today's service is being live streamed via Facebook and YouTube.
- During the Children's Moments, the live stream will display a graphic, in order to protect our children's privacy.
- Please see an usher if you would like a children's activity packet or if you need help finding the nursery.
- Visitors are encouraged to fill out a visitor card at the usher's station or email office@unionucc.com to receive our weekly email newsletter.
- Visitors, if you would like more information about our church, please take home a yellow "Welcome to Union Church" folder located at either sanctuary door. If you have trouble finding them, ask one of our friendly members to help you locate one!
- We encourage those who are COVID positive or have cold or flu symptoms to worship from home and to consult with your healthcare provider to ensure you are engaging in best practices regarding masking, distancing, and receiving vaccines/boosters, particularly if you or someone you live with have health concerns.

Christmas In July

Union's Generosity Team is turning the calendar upside down with a Christmas in July celebration on Sunday, July 21 to thank our members and friends for all of the ways you support our church!

Festivities will include a joyous "Christmas" worship, a Christmas party in the courtyard, the unveiling of our Union Christmas ornament fundraiser, and the opportunity to pre-order your Christmas tree or wreath from our lot. Maybe we'll even burst into carols amidst the heat.

Wear your Christmas colors and contact Deb Rose if you would be willing to make a few dozen Christmas cookies or other holiday treats and if you have a bubble machine or two we could borrow for the party. (Snow and twinkle lights won't work at 11 a.m. in July!)

Serving Christ . . . Loving Each . . . Affirming All

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost Celebrating Pride

June 30, 2024

10:00 a.m.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

(*) invites all who are able to stand

PRELUDE: Partita on *All Are Welcome, IV. "Adagio"* Charles L. Lenz
With music and silence we begin worship, praying quietly and opening our hearts to God.

THE LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY

Welcome! Please share Announcements, Ministry Opportunities, Joys and Concerns.

PRAISING OUR GOD

THE BOND OF UNION (in unison)

Giving our all as we have been given all...

We accept the religion of love and service which Jesus lived and taught, and declare it our purpose to strive to do the will of God, and to make the Christ Spirit dominant in our lives and in all human relations.

* CALL TO WORSHIP: (responsive)

Leader: Strange One. Fabulous One. Fluid and ever becoming One.

All: You are as close to us as our own breath and yet, your essence transcends all that we can imagine.

Leader: Do not allow us to make our ideas of you into an idol.

All: You are mother, father, and parent. You are sister, brother, and nibling.

Leader: You are drag queen, and trans man, and gender-fluid – incapable of limiting your vast expressions of beauty.

All: Embodied in us, your creation, we recognize our flesh in all its forms is made holy by You.

Leader: With thanksgiving, we celebrate your glorious manifestations.

All: Blessed are our bodies. Blessed is our love. Blessed are we when we celebrate that which the world turns away.

Leader: Fill our hearts with a pride rooted in resistance to all that seeks to destroy.

All: May we delight in the ways you have created us: diverse, unique, surprising, and beautiful. Thanks be to God!

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (responsive)

Leader: All too often throughout our personal and collective history, O God, we have struggled to remember who we are. When behaviors and beliefs rooted in brokenness and bigotry shape our understanding of you, ourselves, and one another, we get lost. We hide parts of ourselves. We keep the things that make us vulnerable buried deep. We cling to security and safety. We turn from meaningful connection with one another. We take cover under the patterns of our culture. But you have created us for so much more. In Jesus we saw a life lived in all its potential. Life that is abundant, life that is collective, life that is tender and full.

All: We, of many backgrounds and identities, personalities, and ideas, gather collectively in shared pursuit of the Sacred. Together, we make up the body of Christ.

Wherever one of us is in pain, our whole body aches.

Whenever one of us is cut off, the whole body is wounded.

When people are kept away by discriminatory policies or practices or prejudices, our collective soul suffers the loss of their presence.

We need one another in order to be whole.

God make us the body of Christ as you envisioned.

May we become your presence enfleshed, in service to the world and one another.

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

* PASSING THE PEACE OF JESUS CHRIST

(Please turn and offer a sign of Christ's peace to one another.)

* HYMN:

"Canticle of the Turning"
(see page 4)

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

PROCLAIMING GOD'S GOOD NEWS

SCRIPTURE READING:

Isaiah 43:1-7

p. 672

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

Children are invited to gather on the chancel steps and bring their offering.

Following Children's Moments, all children are welcome to remain in worship.

Additionally, parents are welcome to accompany their children to our "pryground" in the south transept to play and pray quietly or to drop them off downstairs to play in the nursery.

SPECIAL MUSIC:

"Somewhere" -- from West Side Story

Leonard Bernstein
Haley Steele, soprano

GOSPEL READING:

Matthew 15:21-28

p. 17

THE SERMON:

Rev. Bridget Flad Daniels

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GOOD NEWS

HYMN:

"For Everyone Born"
(see page 5)

FOR EVERYONE BORN

THE PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Please join us in praying the Lord's Prayer in these words or a translation meaningful to you.
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.

THE OFFERING

Offertory:

"Rainbow Heart"

Odette Bilby

*Praise Response:

"Send Us Your Spirit"

David Haas

***Come Lord Je - sus, send us your Spir - it,
re - new the face of the earth.
Come Lord Je - sus, send us your Spir - it,
re - new the face of the earth.***

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

God, in so many ways we are taught that we must be self-reliant, independent, in need of no one. But you, our Creator, fashioned us as one creation with many parts, connected intimately. Bless these gifts that they might be put to work for justice until we heal everything that breaches our connection with one another – until isolation is no longer and our sacred interconnection is restored. With Jesus as our model, we pray. Amen.

SENT INTO ALL THE WORLD

*HYMN:

"The Kingdom of God"
(see back page)

Amanda Udis-Kessler

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE:

"Fanfare"

Jacques Nicolas Lemmens

Thanks to all who helped lead today's service including **Haley Steele** for our special music, our reader, **Jeff Gibson**, and **Shawn Malone** who offered our Children's Moments.

Special thanks to our guest organist, **Mary Roffers**.

556 Canticle of the Turning

Text: Luke 1:46-58; Rory Cooney, b.1952
 Tune: STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN;
 Irish traditional; arr. by Rory Cooney, b.1952
 © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

Verses

1. My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2. Though I am small, my God, my all, you
 God of my heart is great, And my spir - it sings of the
 work great things in me, And your mer - cy will last from the
 won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait. You
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be. Your
 fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 weak - ness you did not spurn, So from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, You will show your might, put the
 name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.

Refrain

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the
 fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the
 dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn!

For Everyone Born

TEXT: Shirley Erena Murray, 1998 AND binarybreakingworship.com

FOR EVERYONE BORN
11.10.11.10 with refrain



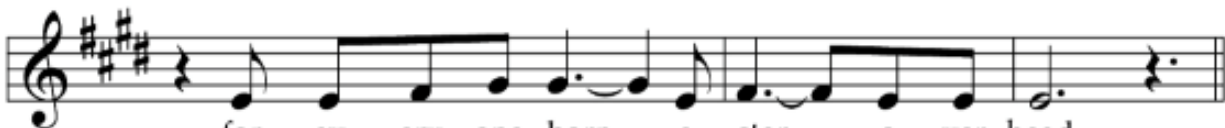
1 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,
2 For wom - an and man, a place at the ta - ble,
4 For just and un - just, a place at the ta - ble,



for ev - ery - one born, clean wa - ter and bread,
and all those be - tween, be - yond, and be - sides,
a chance to re - form, re - pent and re - build,



a shel - ter, a space, a safe place for grow - ing,
ex - pan - ding our world, dis - man - tl - ing pow - er,
pro - tec - ting the wronged, with - out shame or press - ure,



for ev - ery - one born, a star o - ver - head,
each val - ued for what their voice can pro - vide.
for just and un - just, God's vi - sion ful - filled,,

Refrain



and God will de - light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and



joy, com - pas - sion and peace: yes,



God will de - light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice,



jus - tice and joy!

Fine

The Kingdom of God

Lyrics: Amanda Udis-Kessler 2019

Music: Adrian Valerius's Nederlandsch Gedenckclanck 1626

The King - dom of God is an up - side-down king - dom. The first are now
King - dom of God wel-comes all to the ta - ble, no mat - ter your
King - dom of God is our ul - ti - mate pro - mise if we, like the

6
last and the last are now first. The hum - ble ex - alt - ed, the chil - dren bear - ing
sta - tus, your heart will be fed. What - e - ver your sad - ness, the Realm of Love is
pro - phet, will o - pen our hearts. The ho - ur is here and the work is now up -

12
wis - dom. The weal - thy and the poor have their sta - tions re - versed. The
a - ble. What - e - ver your — la - bel, par - take of the bread. The
on us. Our lives will be a wit - ness. In won - der we start. —

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