

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



July 14, 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.



Blessing Box Produce Pantry

We're open for another season!

A variety of fresh produce is welcome and appreciated.
Suggestions include: apples, oranges, green beans, potatoes, cucumbers and squash.

Produce can be placed in the bins on the outdoor produce stand (located next to the Blessing Box) at any time.

Thank You!

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

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 14, 2024

10:00 a.m.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

(*) invites all who are able to stand

PRELUDE: *"Sheep May Safely Graze"* J. S. Bach, arr. E. Petri

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.

*GATHERING PRAYER: (responsive)

Leader: To you, O God, all creatures sing.

All: And all creation, everything, sings your praises. Alleluia!

Leader: Your morning rises with a song.

All: And lights of evening sing along, sing your praises. Alleluia!

Leader: Your flowing waters, crystal clear, make melodies for you to hear,

All: Your fire bountiful and bright, remembering your warmth and light, sings your praises.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (in unison)

Spirit, you invite us to hope, yet we often despair.

You urge us to trust, yet we often fear.

You foster love, yet we often hate.

You call us to peace, yet we wage war.

**Lead us from death to life. Let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our relationships,
let peace fill our world.**

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON: (responsive)

Leader: God, when our hearts are lonely and our lives are broken, longing for love to break into our anguish, you come and teach us love, you come and teach us peace, you come and teach us your way of compassion.

All: Spirit, let justice and mercy fill the earth. Let us be love. Let us bring peace. Let us be your way of compassion. Amen.

* PASSING THE PEACE OF JESUS CHRIST

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

* HYMN NO. 17:

"To You, O God, All Creatures Sing"
(see page 4)

LASST UNS ERFREUEN
The New Century Hymnal

PROCLAIMING GOD'S GOOD NEWS

SCRIPTURE READING:

Psalm 85:8-13

p. 543

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 "playground" in the south transept to play and pray quietly or to drop them off downstairs to play in the nursery with our paid nursery staff.

SPECIAL MUSIC:

"Here I Am, Lord"

Dan Schutte
Mike Ratachic, vocalist

SCRIPTURE READING:

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19

p. 280

THE SERMON:

"Bittersweet"

Shana Espinosa

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GOOD NEWS

HYMN NO. 581:

"Lead Us from Death to Life"
(see page 5)

WORLD PEACE PRAYER
The New Century Hymnal

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: *"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"* --from *Cantata No. 147* J. S. Bach, arr. Myra Hess

*Praise Response: *"We Are Becoming Peace"* Linnea Good

***We are be - coming peace.
We are be - coming peace.
A well of pa - tience, well of grace,
Make our souls a ho - ly place.
We are be - coming peace.***

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

Lord, you give what is good. We come before you with our whole selves. When we are experiencing resurrection joy, may we stand in solidarity with the crucified. When we are experiencing crucifixion suffering, may we sustain each other toward the resurrection. We dedicate these offerings and our lives to solidarity and sustenance. In the name of Jesus Christ, whose life modeled bittersweetness. Amen.

SENT INTO ALL THE WORLD

*HYMN NO. 76: *"Sent Forth by God's Blessing"* THE ASH GROVE
(see back page) The New Century Hymnal

*THE BENEDICTION: (in unison)

We are sent forth by God's blessing. God's grace invited us and love shall unite us, embracing God's children of each tribe and race. You feed us with your grace, now lead us with your love, uniting us as one in this life that we share. Amen.

POSTLUDE: *"Fugue in C-sharp, BWV 848"* J. S. Bach

Thanks to all who helped lead today's service including our reader, **Pat Shafer**, our cantor, **Mike Ratachic**, and **Megan Gleason** who offered our Children's Moments.

Christmas In July is Next Sunday!

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. Join us!

To You, O God, All Creatures Sing

Ps. 148 Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN Geistliche Kirchengesäng, Cologne, 1623
8.8.4.4.8.8. with alleluias Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

St. Francis of Assisi, 1225

Adapt. Miriam Therese Winter, 1993

Unison

1 To you, O God, all crea-tures sing, and all cre - a - tion, ev - ery -
2 Your wind that blows the tem-pest by, your clouds that sail a-cross the
3 Your flow-ing wa - ters, crys-tal clear, make mel - o - dies for you to

(Harmony)

(Unison)

thing sings your prais-es, al-le - lu - ia! Your burn-ing sun with gold-en
sky sing your prais-es, al-le - lu - ia! Your morn-ing ris - es with a
hear, sing your prais-es, al-le - lu - ia! Your fire, . . . boun-ti - ful and

(Harmony)

beam, your sil - ver moon with soft - er gleam sing your prais-es,
song, and lights of eve - ning sing a - long, sing your prais-es,
bright, re - mem - bering your warmth and light, sings your prais-es, al-le -

(Unison)

lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

Lead Us from Death to Life

2 John 1:3; Isa. 2:2-4

Tune: WORLD PEACE PRAYER
12.11.9.10. with refrain
Marty Haugen, 1985Refrain, Satish Kumar
Stanzas, Marty Haugen, 1985

Refrain C C7 F G C G/B Am

Lead us from death to life, from false-hood to truth, from de -

Dm7 G C Dm7 C7/E C7 Dm7

spar to hope, from fear to trust. Lead us from hate to

G C/E E7 Am Dm7 G

love, from war to peace; let peace fill our hearts, let

Em Am Dm7 C/E Dm/F C/G G7 C

peace fill our world, let peace fill our u - ni - verse.

Dm7 G Em7 Am

2 So man - y lone - ly hearts, so man - y bro - ken lives, long - ing for
3 Let jus - tice ev - er roll, let mer - cy fill the earth, let us be -

Dm7 G7 C Am Dm7

love to break in - to their an - guish. Come, teach us love,
gin to grow in - to your peo - ple. We can be love,

E7 Am F D7/F# C/G G7 C to Refrain

come, teach us peace, come and teach us your way of com - pas - sion.
we can bring peace, we can still be your way of com - pas - sion.

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

Omer Westendorf, 1964



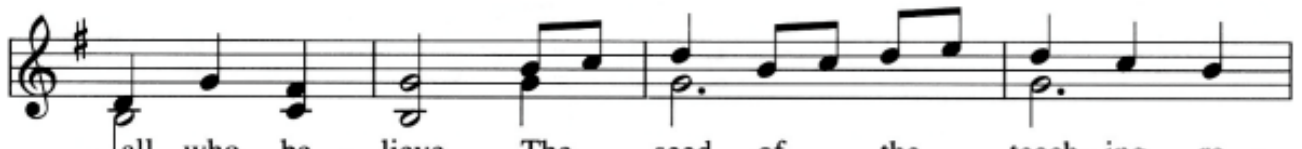
1 Sent forth by God's bless-ing, our true faith con - fess - ing, the
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er liv - ing, the



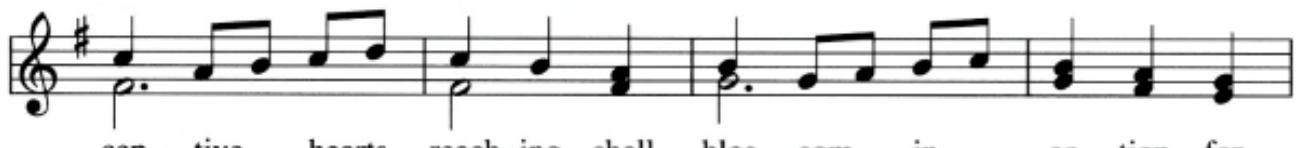
peo - ple of God from this dwell-ing take leave. The ser - vice is
tasks of our ev - ery - day life we will face. Our faith ev - er



end - ed, O now be ex - tend - ed the fruits of our wor - ship in
shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing, em - brac - ing God's chil - dren of



all who be - lieve. The seed of the teach - ing, re -
each tribe and race. With your grace you feed us, with



cep - tive hearts reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for
your light now lead us, u - nite us as one in this



God and for all. God's grace did in - vite us, and love shall u -
life that we share. Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks -



nite us to work for God's realm and to an - swer the call.
giv - ing give hon - or to Christ and that name which we bear.