

# 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



January 28, 2024

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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.

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## **Love Your Neighbor As Yourself**

While the CDC is scaling back its reporting of COVID data, it is still important to consult with your healthcare provider to make sure you are engaging in best practices regarding masking, distancing, receiving vaccines/boosters, and other COVID best practices, particularly if you or someone you live with have health concerns. We continue to encourage those who have cold or flu symptoms to worship from home as a tangible way that we can love our neighbors and ourselves.

## **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](mailto:office@unionucc.com) to receive our weekly email newsletter.
- Visitors, if you would like more information about our church, please take home one of the yellow "Welcome to Union Church" folders, located at either sanctuary door. If you have trouble finding them, ask one of our friendly members to help you locate one!

## **Call to the 188th Annual Meeting**

The 188th Annual Meeting of Union Congregational United Church of Christ will convene today, January 28, immediately following worship. We will conduct our business meeting and share a time of fellowship after our agenda is concluded. Reports concerning the ministry of Union Church in 2023 will be presented, outgoing ministry chairs and vice-chairs will be recognized, elections will be held for new leaders, and a budget for the ministry of Union Church in 2024 will be adopted.

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

**Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

January 28, 2024

10:00 a.m.

**GATHERING FOR WORSHIP**

(\*) invites all who are able to stand

PRELUDE:

*"Aria"*

John S. Dixon

Prelude on *"Hyfrydol"*

Gordon Young

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: People of God, we are a community dedicated to magnifying the ways of God.  
With hospitality, let us turn our attention to the Spirit.

**All: May we welcome the joyful, the sorrowful, and the ostracized.**

**May we be open to surprising revelations.**

**May we celebrate the beauty of connection.**

Leader: People of God, there is a sacred chord that rings through the experience of community.

**All: Let us trade individual arrogance for collective humility.**

**That fresh wisdom may emerge. That love may deepen.**

**That paths of collective liberation may manifest.**

**Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (responsive)

Leader: Guiding One, when the world is full of so much dissonance, it can be tempting to turn inward, to isolate. When we encounter unclean spirits, in ourselves, in others, and even in systems, it can be tempting to accent the chaos, to allow those voices to crescendo. When others' difficulties and the chaotic spirits in our own lives trouble or threaten us, it

can be tempting to push people away, to follow our fear, rather than seek the mutual flourishing you envision for us. With this in mind, let us pause to confess to our God. (Silence is kept.) Let us pray:

**All: Forgive us, Holy God, and have mercy on us. May our fears be silenced, so words of hope may be spoken and bear fruit. May we give thanks not only with our hearts but with the grace we can share with others. May justice and peace be the tools we use as we serve beside Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Bless our lives and this church as we seek to give voice to the Good News in all its liberative forms. Amen.**

\* ASSURANCE OF PARDON: (responsive)

Leader: Forgiven, we are filled by God's Spirit and commissioned to be Christ's hope, Christ's people for the world.

**All: In covenant, may we care for one another, weep with one another, serve one another, and transform the world with one another. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

\* PASSING THE PEACE OF JESUS CHRIST

\* HYMN NO. 411:                      *"Praise the Source of Faith and Learning"*  
(see page 4)

HYFRYDOL  
The New Century Hymnal

## PROCLAIMING GOD'S GOOD NEWS

SCRIPTURE READING:                      Psalm 111

### 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 or parents are welcome to accompany their children to our "playground" or to drop them off downstairs in the nursery.

BELL CHORAL ANTHEM:                      *"Hashivenu"*

Brenda Austin

HOLY GOSPEL:                      Mark 1:21-28

p. 35

THE SERMON:

Rev. Bridget Flad Daniels

## RESPONDING IN FAITH

HYMN NO. 176:                      *"Silence! Frenzied, Unclean Spirit"*  
(see page 5)

JEFFERSON  
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:

*"Pastorale"*

J. K. Kuchar

\*Praise Response:

OLD HUNDREDTH

***All peo - ple that on earth do dwell,  
sing out your faith with cheer - ful voice;  
De - light in God whose praise you tell,  
whose pres - ence calls you to re - joice.***

## \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION: (responsive)

Leader: Friends, as we dedicate these offerings and the existence of our church to the furthering of God's ways in the world, let us remind ourselves of the power of community by lifting up the words of our closing hymn:

**All: We are pilgrims on a journey,  
we are travelers on the road;  
we are here to help each other  
walk the mile and bear the load.**

## **SENT INTO ALL THE WORLD**

\*HYMN NO. 539:

*"Will You Let Me Be Your Servant"*  
(see back page)

SERVANT SONG  
The New Century Hymnal

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE:

*"Prelude in Classic Style"*

Gordon Young

Thanks to all who helped lead today's service including our reader, **Cheryl Myers**, who also offered our Children's Moments.

Our Call to Worship is adapted from Liturgies That Matter by enfleshed.

Our Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon are adapted from Lectionary Liturgies by Thom Shuman. Our Prayer of Dedication is based on "The Servant Song" by Richard Gillard.

# NCH 411 Praise the Source of Faith and Learning

1. Praise the Source of faith and learn - ing that has sparked and stoked the mind  
 2. May our faith — re - deem the blun - der of be - liev - ing that — our thought  
 3. As two cur - rents in a riv - er fight each oth - er's un - der tow

9  
 with a pas - sion for dis - cern - ing how the world has been de -  
 has dis placed the grounds for won - der which the an - cient proph - ets  
 till con verg - ing they de - liv - er one co - her - ent stead - y

16  
 signed. Let the sense of won - der flow - ing from the won - ders we — sur - vey  
 taught. May our learn - ing curb the er - ror which un think - ing faith can breed  
 flow, Blend, O God, our faith and learn - ing till they carve a sin - gle course,

25  
 keep our faith for ev - er grow - ing and re - new — our need to pray.  
 lest — we jus - ti - fy — some ter - ror with an an - ti - quat - ed creed.  
 till — they join as one, re - turn - ing praise and thanks to You, their Source.

# NCH 176 Silence! Frenzied, Unclean Spirit

1. "Si - lence! Fren - zied, un - clean spir - it," cried God's heal - ing, Ho - ly One.  
 2. Christ, the de - mons still are thriv - ing in the grey cells of the mind:  
 3. Si - lence, Christ, the un - clean spir - it, in our mind and in our heart.

5  
 "Cease your rant - ing! Flesh can't bear it. Flee as night be - fore the sun."  
 Ty - rant voic - es, shrill and driv - ing, twist - ed thoughts that grip and bind,  
 Speak your word that when we hear it all our de - mons shall de - part.

9  
 At Christ's voice the de - mon trem - bled, from its vic - tim mad - ly rushed,  
 Doubts that stir the heart to pan - ic, fears dis - tort - ing rea - son's sight,  
 Clear our thought and calm our feel - ing, still the frac - tured, war - ring soul.

13  
 While the crowd that was as - sem - bled stood in won - der stunned and hushed.  
 Guilt that makes our lov - ing fran - tic, dreams that cloud the soul with fright.  
 By the pow - er of your heal - ing make us faith - ful, true, and whole.

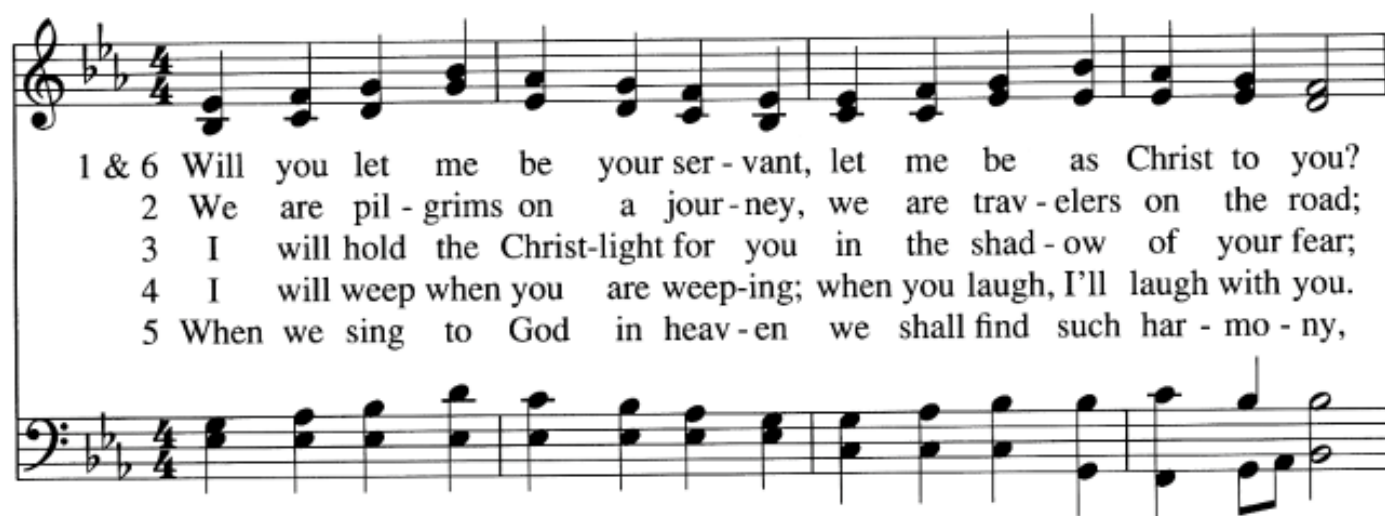


# Will You Let Me Be Your Servant?

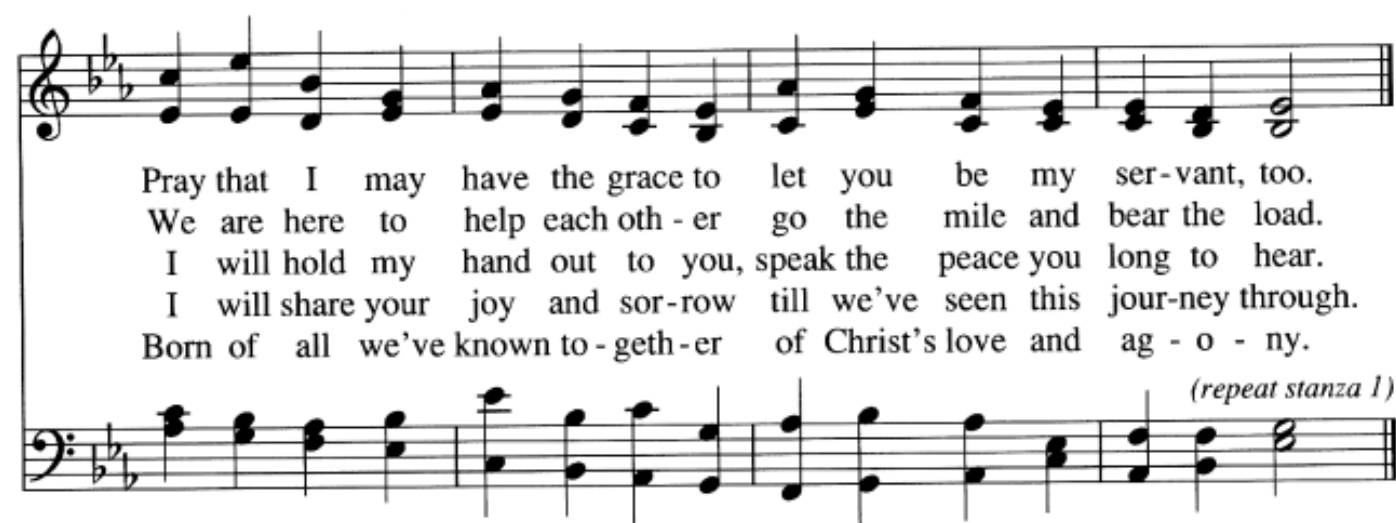
539

Richard Gillard, 1977; alt.

Rom. 12:9-18; Col. 1:24-29



1 & 6 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as Christ to you?  
2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - elers on the road;  
3 I will hold the Christ-light for you in the shad - ow of your fear;  
4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.  
5 When we sing to God in heav - en we shall find such har - mo - ny,



Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my ser - vant, too.  
We are here to help each oth - er go the mile and bear the load.  
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.  
I will share your joy and sor - row till we've seen this jour - ney through.  
Born of all we've known to - geth - er of Christ's love and ag - o - ny.  
(repeat stanza 1)

Tune: SERVANT SONG 8.7.8.7.  
Richard Gillard, 1977  
Arr. Betty Carr Pulkingham, 1977; adapt.

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