

Link for Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/94327921872?pwd=a05walRGK1MxcTRab0pLWC9DeFViQT09>

Meeting ID: 943 2792 1872

Password: 023012

To connect by phone, call (646)558-8656

When attempting to join our Sunday morning worship on Zoom, participants enter a “Waiting Room” and are allowed entrance only when recognized by a member of the UUC Tech Team. This means your Zoom login must have your name or some identifying information that we can recognize. “Zoom User” will not work!

Those joining us for worship on Zoom can present their tithes and offerings online through our [website](#) or by downloading the [Tithe.ly App](#) for your iPhone or Android device.

## UNION UNIVERSITY CHURCH

### ORDER OF WORSHIP

September 22, 2024

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

**PRELUDE** “Morning Has Broken” *Gaelic Melody*

*arr Ralph Manuel May this be a time for silent reflection*

*as we prepare ourselves for worship...*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, beloved, into this sacred space, where grace flows like water and joy rises like the morning sun.

**People: We come, seeking the grace that sustains us, and the joy that blossoms from it.**

Leader: Like the stem of a plant, grace lifts us up, bearing us toward the light, connecting us to the deep roots of life.

**People: We are nourished by grace, strengthened to stand tall, even in seasons of drought.**

Leader: As the xylem carries life unseen, so grace moves within us, unseen yet constant, allowing joy to flourish.

**People: We rest in the peace of wild things, in the grace of the world, and find joy in the quiet places of our souls.**

Leader: Let us lift our voices, as the plants lift their stems to the light, offering our praise and thanksgiving to the Creator of grace and joy.

**People: For in this place, we are sustained by grace, and we rise in joy, rooted in love and connected to all that is.**

**Leader:** Come, let us worship the One who nourishes us with grace and fills our lives with joy.

**All: We come with open hearts, ready to be renewed, lifted up, and filled with the joy of the Divine. Amen.**

**\*GATHERING HYMN #10**

**Here in This Place**

**PRAYER CONCERNS**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**SILENT PRAYER – LORD’S PRAYER** (*debts/debtors*)

**\*HYMN#550**

**God Who Touches Earth with Beauty**

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

(*Offering plates are located at the back of the sanctuary. You May also give directly through your ban, or online through Tith.ly*).

**OFFERTORY**

Hear My Prayer

*by Mendelssohn*

*Margot Law, soprano*

**\*DOXOLOGY #71A & BLESSING**

**Praise God, the source of life and birth.**

**Praise God, the Word who came to earth.**

**Praise God the Spirit, holy Flame.**

**All glory, honor to God’s name. Amen**

**READING**

*The Peace of Wild Things*

*by Wendall Berry*

**ORGAN & FLUTE MEDITATION**

*Siciliano from Flute Sonata #2 by J. S. Bach*

*Margot Law, flute*

**SERMON**

**The Stem of Grace & Joy**

*Rev Roberto Che Espinoza, PhD*

**GIFT OF MUSIC** *Climb Ev’ry Mountain Rodgers & Hammerstein*

*Margot Law, soprano*

**\* CLOSING HYMN #62**

**God Is Here among Us**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\* BENEDICTION RESPONSE #586 All Will Be Well**

**POSTLUDE**

“I Saw the Light”

Hank Williams

**September Leadership: Elder—**John Buckwalter, **Deacon—**Regina Burke, **Trustee—**Michele Hluchy,  
**Fellowship—**Dave Porter, **Christian Ed.—**Melissa Jusaniec & Michele Tichy

**PRAYER CONCERNS**

Ding Jiayi & Family, Chang Weiping & Family, Clayton Stutzman, Hugh Langelier, Wes Bentz, Lowin, Bev Potter, Michelle Garcia Escobar, Vangelia Perryman, Esther & Marcus Epps, Kenneth Williams, Bob & Deb Lewis, Bird & Leo, Steve Crandall, Bob Condrate, Chrystal Dodge, the Burdick family, Joan & Brad Bowden.

*The Union University Church is a community of people from diverse religious backgrounds who seek to experience the breadth of God and through our unity to serve Christ always. We honor the image of God in all persons and seek to recognize the distinct and unique ways we each come to be human through relations with others.*

*Please join us for coffee across the street  
following worship.*

Worship online via Zoom: link available on webpage

### **Serving Today**

Lay Leader.....Tiersa Watson  
Flowers .....Jan Porter  
Greeter(s) .....Sharon Burdick  
Coffee Hour .....Catherine Chambers  
Piano ..... Peter O'Connor  
Organ.....Laurel Buckwalter  
Usher.....Jan Porter  
Zoom Hosts .....Jim Ninos, John Buckwalter

### **Looking Ahead—September 29**

Lay Leader .....Larry Casey  
Flowers .....Jan & Larry Casey  
Greeter(s) .....Jan & Dave Porter  
Coffee Hour.....Cindy Tucker  
Piano ..... Peter O'Connor  
Organ.....Laurel Buckwalter  
Usher.....Jan Porter  
Zoom Hosts ..... Jim Ninos, John Buckwalter

## **Upcoming Events**

**Saturday, September 28, 6:00-9:00pm: Opening exhibition for**

**Resonance & Reflection**—a new initiative at UUC: an art series that invites us to experience the sacred through creativity, offering a space where art becomes a spiritual practice. In sacred spaces, art helps us see the divine in new ways, opening our hearts and minds to deeper reflection and connection. As we engage with these visual expressions, we are called to listen to the resonances within us and reflect on the ways art can transform, heal, and inspire our spiritual journeys. **Viewing will be available in the sanctuary on Sundays from 1-4, Sept. 29, Oct. 6, Oct 13.**

**Sunday, September 29, 12:00pm A Grow by Caring task force** is being resurrected at this crucial moment to invite our church into a renewed season of intentional discernment. Twice before, during moments of challenge, this task force has guided us through deep reflection and growth, ensuring that our community remained rooted in care, compassion, and purpose. Today, as we face new challenges and opportunities, we need this focused space for discernment more than ever—to listen to the needs of our church, respond with wisdom, and nurture a path forward that is grounded in love and ethical responsibility. Members: Roberto Che Espinoza, Dan Acton, Amie Acton, Erin Law, Laurel Buckwalter, Larry Casey, Tim Nichols, Deb Stephens, Lana Meissner, Dave Porter,

**Sunday, October 6, 9:30am Adult Study**— open to members of the congregation and community. Since it has been difficult to find a good time for Book Group, Roberto will offer an adult study at 9:30am on the first Sunday of the month. The first session will dovetail with the curriculum used by our youth. Roberto will provide materials for this session.

**Sunday, October 6, 10:30am Blessing of the Animals**—returns to UUC. Larry Casey will prepare a photo presentation of our pets. Please email photos to Larry at [lcasey1834@gmail.com](mailto:lcasey1834@gmail.com) by Oct 1 at the latest. If you have printed photos to be scanned he will need them by next Sunday, Sept. 29.

**Sunday, October 6, 4:00-5:00pm "Resonant Stillness":**

**"A Sacred Sound Bath Experience"** The intersection of art and sound in curating a sound bath ritual within the church sanctuary invites both the congregation and the broader community into a profound sensory experience. This immersive practice uses sound as a form of spiritual care, creating an atmosphere of deep reflection, healing, and connection. By blending art and sound, we transform the sacred space into a sanctuary of peace, where participants are invited to listen deeply—to themselves, to one another, and to the divine. This ritual fosters a sense of unity, grounding us in the present while opening us to new possibilities for spiritual growth and community care.

## 10

## Here in This Place

GATHER US IN 10.9.10.10 D



1 Here in this place, the new light is stream-ing; now are the shad-ows  
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-t'ry. We are the old who  
 3 Here we will take the wine of com-pas-sion; here we will take the  
 4 Not just in build-ings, dim and con-fin-ing; not in some heav-en,



van-ish-ed a-way. See in this space our fears and our dream-ings,  
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-t'ry,  
 bread of new birth. Here we be-come the peo-ple you fash-ion:  
 light-years a-way: here in this place, the new light is shin-ing;



brought here to you in the light of this day.  
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.  
 chil-dren of God, to be salt for the earth.  
 now is the dawn-ing and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, our  
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the  
 Give us to drink the wine ev-er flow-ing, give us to eat the  
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and



spir-its in-flame. Call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;  
 proud and the strong. Give us a heart so meek and so low-ly;  
 bread that is you. Nour-ish us well, and guide us in grow-ing  
 make us your own. Gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.  
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.  
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.  
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

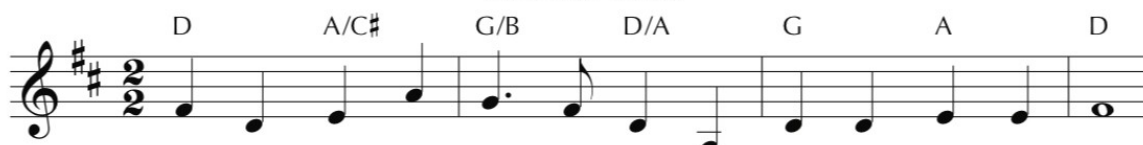
Text: Marty Haugen (USA), 1981, *Gather*, 1988, alt.Music: Marty Haugen, 1981, *Gather*, 1988

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# 550 God Who Touches Earth with Beauty

EARTHRISE 8.5.8.5



1 God who touch - es earth with beau - ty, make my heart a - new.  
 2 Like your springs and run - ning wa - ter, make me crys - tal pure.  
 3 Like your danc - ing waves in sun - light, make me glad and free.  
 4 Like the arch - ing of the heav - ens, lift my thoughts a - bove.  
 5 God who touch - es earth with beau - ty, make my heart a - new.



With your Spir - it re - cre - ate me pure and strong and true.  
 Like your rocks of tow - 'ring gran - deur, make me strong and sure.  
 Like the straight - ness of the pine trees, let me up - right be.  
 Turn my dreams to no - ble ac - tion, min - is - tries of love.  
 Keep me ev - er, by your Spi - rit, pure and strong and true.

Text: Mary S. Edgar (Canada), 1925, alt.  
 Music: Alfred V. Fedak (USA), 1988, © 1989 Sacred Music Press



# 62 Gott ist gegenwärtig (God Is Here among Us)

WUNDERBARER KÖNIG 6.6.8.6.6.8.3.3.6.6

1 Gott ist ge - gen - wär - tig. Las - set uns an - be - ten  
 2 Gott ist ge - gen - wär - tig, dem die Che - ru - bi - nen  
 1 God is here a - mong us: come with a - do - ra - tion,  
 2 Come, a - bide with - in me; let my soul, like Ma - ry,

und in Ehr-furcht vor ihn tre - ten. Gott ist in der  
 Tag und Nacht ge - bü - cket die - nen. "Hei - lig, hei - lig,  
*fer - vent praise and ex - pec - ta - tion. God is here with -*  
*be thine earth - ly sanc - tu - ar - y. Come, in - dwell - ing*

Mit - te. Al - les in uns schwei - ge und sich in - nigt  
 hei - lig!" sin - gen ihm zur Eh - re al - ler En - gel  
*in us: known be - yond be - liev - ing, soul in si - lent*  
*Spir - it, with trans - fig - ured splen - dor; love and hon - or*

vor ihm beu - ge. Wer ihn kennt, wer ihn nennt,  
 ho - he Chö - re. Herr, ver - nimm uns - re Stimm,  
*awe re - ceiv - ing. God will name and will claim*  
*will I ren - der. Where I go here be - low,*

schlag die Au - gen nie - der; kommt, er - gebt euch wie - der.  
 da auch wir Ge - rin - gen uns - re Op - fer brin - gen.  
*those be - held as low - ly, mak - ing all things ho - ly.*  
*let me bow be - fore thee, know thee, and a - dore thee.*

3 Herr, komm in mir wohnen;  
 lass mein Herz auf Erden  
 dir ein Heiligtum noch werden.  
 Komm, du nahes Wesen;  
 dich in mir verkläre,  
 dass ich dich stets lieb und ehre.  
 Wo ich geh, sitz und steh,  
 lass mich dich erblicken  
 und vor dir mich bücken.

3 Gladly we surrender  
 earth's deceitful treasures,  
 pride of life, and sinful pleasures.  
 God, we gladly offer  
 thine to be forever,  
 soul and life and each endeavor.  
 Thou alone shalt be known  
 Lord of all our being,  
 life's true way decreeing.

