

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

October 6, 2024

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

PRELUDE

Sheep May Safely Graze

J S Bach, arr Smith and Hustad

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, all who seek the joy that runs deep, the joy that springs from the very heart of God.

People: We gather to remember the sacred connections that bind us—to God, to one another, and to all creation.

Leader: In the rhythms of our lives, in the repetition of our prayers, and in the persistence of our faith, God’s presence is always near.

People: Like the persistent widow, we come again and again, trusting in the justice and mercy of God, finding strength in faithful repetition.

Leader: With the spirit of St. Francis, we open our hearts to the beauty of creation—celebrating the animals, the earth, and the sacred diversity of life.

People: We give thanks for the creatures who bless our lives and for the natural world that surrounds us, teaching us of God’s love and grace.

Leader: In the face of difference, let us find unity. In the repetition of daily life, let us discover God’s steady hand. And in all seasons, let us nurture joy that grows even in the darkest soil.

People: We come to worship with open hearts, ready to receive God’s joy, to celebrate the beauty of creation, and to persist in faith, hope, and love.

Leader: Come, let us worship the God who delights in creation, who renews us with joy, and who calls us to walk gently and persistently in faith.

* GATHERING HYMN #81

All Creatures, Worship God Most High

OUR ANIMAL FRIENDS - 2024 *video created by Larry Casey* **BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS**

PRAYER CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

SILENT PRAYER – LORD’S PRAYER *(Sung)*

GIFT OF MUSIC

Ryan Leddick

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

The Cuckoo

by Louis Claude D’Aquin, arr Smith E Power Biggs

*** 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

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 13:52 (pew Bible p.848)

ORGAN MEDITATION Vesper Voluntary III *by Edward Elgar*

SERMON

The Grace in Repetition: Discovering Difference in the Familiar

Rev Roberto Che Espinoza, PhD

*** COMMUNION HYMN #461 Come to the Table of Grace**

SERVICE OF COMMUNION

This month we celebrate communion in the “chalice” tradition. Please come forward when the usher invites you. Take and eat the bread. We offer both gluten free vegan crackers and regular bread. After eating the bread, move to the right or to the left, take a cup of juice and drink it. After you drink the juice, place the empty cup in the tray provided on the left or right. Once you have placed your empty cup in the tray, return to your pew using the outside aisles. If you cannot come forward, indicate to the usher that you would like communion brought to you by an Elder.

Our church practices open communion. Anyone who wishes to partake in the Lord’s Supper is invited to do so.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and Loving God, We come before you, aware of the hidden threads that bind us to you and to one another, yet we confess that we often neglect the roots of our joy. We have failed to nurture the deep connections that sustain our spirits, choosing instead the shallow pursuits of fleeting happiness.

Forgive us, Lord, for when we have isolated ourselves, cutting off the flow of your love and grace that moves through our lives like mycelium beneath the earth. We have turned away from the quiet places where your joy grows, seeking satisfaction in what is temporary and superficial.

We confess that in our struggles, we have allowed despair to take root, forgetting that joy can thrive even in the darkest soil. We have resisted the resilience of joy, choosing to remain in our brokenness rather than trusting in your power to transform and renew us.

Help us, O God, to return to the source of all joy, to reconnect with you and with one another.

Cultivate in us a spirit of gratitude and contentment, that we may find joy in every season. Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and sustain us with your Spirit.

In the silence of this moment, we bring before you the places in our lives where we need your healing, your forgiveness, and your joy...

[Silence]

Thank you, God, for your mercy that renews us and your joy that strengthens us. We trust in your forgiveness and in the power of your love to weave us back into the fabric of your grace. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

SHARING THE LORD'S TABLE TOGETHER

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Gracious God,

We give thanks for the beauty of difference and the power of repetition in our lives. In the rhythms of our days, you meet us anew, each moment echoing your faithfulness. Like the persistent widow, we come before you again and again, trusting in your justice, your mercy, and your love that never falters. Thank you for the ways you teach us to persist in faith, to embrace the differences that reflect your creativity, and to find strength in the sacred repetition of prayer, action, and hope. We are grateful for the ways you move in our lives, both in the familiar and the unexpected.

In all things, we give thanks for your enduring presence that sustains us. Amen.

*** CLOSING HYMN# 180 This is God's Wondrous World**

*** BENEDICTION**

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

POSTLUDE

Please Note: Hearing Assistance and Large Print Hymnals are available. Ask the Usher for a Hearing Assistance device. The Hymnals are located at the back of the Sanctuary.

October Leadership: Elder— Heather Meacham, **Deacon—** MaryBeth McDonough, **Trustee—** Laurel Buckwalter, **Fellowship—** Laurel Buckwalter, **Christian Ed.—** Jan Porter

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.

Serving Today

Lay Leader.....Heather Meacham
Communion.....Heather Meacham (EOM) & John Buckwalter
Greeter(s)Joan & Walt Schulze
Coffee HourMindy Smith
Piano Peter O'Connor
Organ.....Laurel Buckwalter
Guest Soloist.....Ryan Leddick
Usher.....John Meacham
Zoom HostsJim Ninos, John Buckwalter

Looking Ahead—October 13

Lay LeaderCatherine Chambers
Flowers.....Joan & Walter Schulze
Greeter(s)Joe Fasano
Coffee Hour.....Anna McHale
Piano Peter O'Connor
Organ.....Laurel Buckwalter
Usher.....John Meacham
Zoom Hosts Jim Ninos, John Buckwalter

Meetings

- October 6, 1-4 Art Exhibit in the Sanctuary
- October 6, 7:30pm Trustees Meeting
- October 7, 7pm Community Peace Vigil in the Sanctuary
- October 8, 7pm Elders Meeting
- October 13, 4-5pm, Sound Bath in the King David Room

September & October Mission of the Month—the Board of Elders

decided to continue collecting for Habitat through the month of October due to multiple fundraising efforts. Make checks payable to UUC with Habitat on the

memo line.

Upcoming Events

Monday, October 7, 7pm in the Church Sanctuary: Community Peace Vigil:

an intentional gathering of prayer and peace. A peace vigil gathers us in sacred stillness, where candles flicker like whispers of hope, and theologies of peace beckon us toward a world grounded in love. Here, amidst soft breaths of prayer and resolute hearts, we find the gentle warriors—cute peace activists whose smiles disarm violence with grace. Their presence reminds us that peace is both tender and strong, a practice of radical hospitality where we embody the sacred call to justice, compassion, and the unshakable belief that even in the quietest moments, peace is born anew. *(by Pastor Roberto)*

Sunday, October 13, 1-4 Resonance & Reflection—Art in the Sanctuary

Sunday, October 13, 4:00-5:00pm, King David Room in the Church Center

“Resonant Stillness: A Sacred Sound Bath Experience” The intersection of art and sound in curating a sound bath ritual in the King David Room 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 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.

Holiday Luncheon from Jan Porter

The holiday luncheon will be Friday, December 13, this year. We will serve lunch from 11 to 1. This year I will be soliciting 20 soups and 20 pies. We will have traditional beverages and slider sandwiches filled with ham, chicken or egg salad. Quarts and pints of cold soup will be available in the foyer of the church center. Larry Casey will manage sales. We will have bake sales shelves and a table. This year we are hoping they will be filled with whatever food items individuals want to contribute. Sales of these items will give that fundraising day a bigger profit. Anna McHale will manage sales. This year we are also going to be selling 100 poinsettias for \$15 apiece. We hope to sell 75 of these flowers in a presale, with pick-up the week of the luncheon: Wednesday afternoon, Thursday evening, or Friday during the luncheon. The presale will begin in early

November. Individuals may order for themselves, friends, relatives, or for a local nursing home or hospital for someone you may know in one of these facilities. The 25 remaining poinsettias will be for sale at the luncheon. Regina Burke will manage sales during the luncheon All this information is to give you a head start on planning for our only fund raising event for UUC. I will be contacting our seasoned workers for all the jobs that keep the luncheon running smoothly. I am grateful for all the contributions: creativity, time, energy, and our service to the people from the communities of our attendees.

81 All Creatures, Worship God Most High

LASST UNS ERFREUEN LM with alleluias

Chord symbols: D B m A sus A D

1 *All crea - tures, wor - ship God most high, lift
 2 Thou rush - ing wind that art so strong, ye
 3 Thou flow - ing wa - ter, pure and clear, make
 4 Dear moth - er earth, who day by day, un -
 5 And ev - 'ry - one, with ten - der heart, for -
 6 And thou, most kind and gen - tle death, wait -
 7 Let all things their Cre - a - tor bless, and

Chord symbols: B m A sus A D G D

up your voice in earth and sky,
 clouds that sail in heav'n a - long,
 mu - sic for thy God to hear,
 fold - est bless - ings on our way, al - le - lu - ia,
 giv - ing oth - ers, take your part,
 ing to hush our fi - nal breath,
 wor - ship God in hum - ble - ness,

*Or, "All creatures of our God and King, / lift up your voice and with us sing"

Chord symbols represent a simplified harmony.

Text: Saint Francis of Assisi (present-day Italy), "Laudato sia Dio mio Signore," 1225; trans. William H. Draper (England), *Hymns of the Spirit*, 1926, alt.

Music: *Geistliche Kirchengesäng* (present-day Germany), 1623; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (England), *The English Hymnal*, 1906, simplified

®

al - le - lu - ia! Thou burn - ing sun with gold - en
 Thou ris - ing morn in praise re -
 Thou fire so mas - ter - ful and
 The flow'rs and fruits that in thee
 Ye who long pain and sor - row
 Thou lead - est home the child of
 To God all thanks and praise be -

beam, thou sil - ver moon with soft - er gleam,
 joice, ye lights of eve - ning, find a voice,
 bright, that giv - est all both warmth and light,
 grow, let them God's glo - ry al - so show,
 bear, sing praise and cast on God your care,
 God, as Christ be - fore that way hath trod,
 long! Join in the ev - er - last - ing song:

O sing ye, O sing ye, al - le -

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

461 Come to the Table of Grace

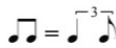
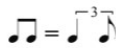
Swing:  = 

TABLE OF GRACE 7.7.10.7

Capo 3: (D) F (A) C (Bm) Dm (D7/A) F7/C (G) Bb

Come to the ta - ble of grace. Come to the

(A) C (D) F (A) C (D) F (Em) Gm

ta - ble of grace. This is God's ta - ble; it's

(D/F#) F/A (G) Bb (D/A) F/C (A7) C7 (D) F (G) Bb (D) F

not yours or mine. Come to the ta - ble of grace.

- 2 Come to the table of peace . . .
- 3 Come to the table of love . . .
- 4 Come to the table of hope . . .
- 5 Come to the table of joy . . .

Text: Barbara Hamm (USA)
 Music: Barbara Hamm
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180 This Is God's Wondrous World

TERRA BEATA SMD

Capo 1: (D) Eb (A7) Bb7 (D) Eb (G) Ab (D) Eb (A) Bb

1 This is God's won-drous world, and to my lis-t'ning ears
 2 This is God's won-drous world; the birds their car - ols raise,
 3 This is God's won-drous world; oh, let me ne'er for - get

(D) Eb (F#m) Gm (A7) Bb7 (D) Eb (A7) Bb7 (D) Eb

all na - ture sings, and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres.
 the morn-ing light, the dark of night, de - clare their Mak-er's praise.
 that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ru - ler yet.

(A7) Bb7 (D) Eb (G) Ab (D) Eb (G) Ab (D) Eb

This is God's won-drous world; I rest me in the thought
 This is God's won-drous world; a wand-'rer I may roam.
 This is God's won-drous world; the bat - tle is not done.

(A7) Bb7 (D) Eb (F#m) Gm (A7) Bb7 (D) Eb (A7) Bb7 (D) Eb

of rocks and trees, of skies and seas, the won-ders God has wrought.
 What-e'er my lot, it mat-ters not, my heart is still at home.
 Je - sus who died shall be glo - ri - fied, and earth and heav'n be one.

Text: Maltbie D. Babcock (USA), *Thoughts for Every-Day Living*, 1901, alt.Music: Franklin L. Sheppard (USA), *Alleluia*, 1915, adapt. from English traditional RUSPER