

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. You may also give using Venmo. Our Venmo “handle” is @UUCAlfred, but you can find us by searching for the name of the church, or you can scan this QR code to donate to UUC on Venmo:



**UNION UNIVERSITY CHURCH  
ORDER OF WORSHIP  
Third Sunday in Lent**

**March 23, 2025**

**WELCOME & INTRODUCTION**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & CELEBRATIONS**

**PRELUDE**      **You'll Never Walk Alone** *by Richard Rodgers arr Nina Simone*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Come, weary ones, and gather in. We bring hearts stretched thin by systems that drain and divide. We come, heavy with the weight of despair and disconnection.

**People: We long to be like trees planted by water, roots deep in mercy, branches outstretched in hope.**

Leader: The world tells us to trust in strength that exploits, to lean on powers that consume and discard. But we turn now toward another way— the way of tenderness, the way of shared life.

**People: We hold this treasure in jars of clay, fragile yet full of light, bearing witness to a power that is not our own.**

Leader: Beloved community, this is not the time to close in or give up. This is the moment to unravel from despair, to release the grip of extraction and fear.

**People: We will lean into care that restores, justice that heals, and love that makes all things new.**

Leader: Come, let us worship the One who sustains us, whose roots reach deep, whose waters never fail.

**People: We come to be renewed, to be rooted, to be resilient in hope.**

**\* GATHERING HYMN #667 Shall We Gather at the River**

## **PRAYER CONCERNS**

### **PASTORAL PRAYER**

### **SILENT PRAYER**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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**

**GIFT OF MUSIC**    **Lord of the Dance**    *Bev Synder, soloist*

## **INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

*(Offering plates are located at the back of the sanctuary. You may also give directly through your bank, or online through Tith.ly or Venmo. Our Venmo "handle" is @UUCAlfred, but you can find us by searching for the name of the church or use the QR code on the back of the bulletin.)*

**OFFERTORY**        **This is My Father's World**    *Amy Grant*

### **\*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.**

**\* HYMN OF THE MONTH #556**        **I Bind My Heart This Tide**

**SCRIPTURE**        *Jeremiah 17:5-11 (pew Bible p. 665), 2 Corinthians 4:1-9 (pew Bible p. 993)*

**MEDITATION**    **Were You There**    *Arranged by Nina Simone*

SERMON

Water Nourishes, the Spirit Sustains

Nancy J Evangelista, PhD

\* CLOSING HYMN #453

As I Went Down to The River to Pray

\*BENEDICTION

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE #805

Peace, salaam, shalom, peace, salaam, shalom,  
peace, salaam, shalom, peace, salaam, shalom.

POSTLUDE

Every Time I Feel The Spirit

*Please join us for coffee and fellowship in the Church Center following worship*

**Accessibility**

**Accessible parking** and **ramp access** to the Church is available in the parking lot on West University St. **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.

**Prayer Concerns**

Ding Jiayi & Family, Chang Weiping & Family, Clayton Stutzman, Hugh Langelier, Wes Bentz, Lowin, Michelle Garcia Escobar, Vangelia Perryman, Esther & Marcus Epps, Kenneth Williams, Bob & Deb Lewis, Bob Condrate, the Burdick family, Joan & Brad Bowden, Sally Hopkins, Luanne Crosby's friends: Kathy Kalushka (breast cancer) & Kathy Bohlen (cancer), Steve Crandall.

**March Leadership:** Elder:-Larry Casey, **Trustee**-Anna McHale, **Deacon** -Erin Law, **Fellowship**-Cindy Tucker, **Christian Ed**-Melissa Jusaniec.

**Serving Today**

Lay Leader .....Amie Acton

Flowers.....No flowers during Lent

Greeter(s) .....Catherine Chambers

Coffee Hour.....the Tuckers

Piano ..... Peter O'Connor

Usher.....John Meacham

Zoom Hosts ..... Jim Ninos

### Looking Ahead – March 30

Lay Leader ..... Colleen Sarnicola Moon  
Flowers.....No flowers during Lent  
Greeter(s) .....M. Tichy  
Coffee Hour.....Hluchy & Burke  
Piano ..... Peter O'Connor  
Usher.....John Meacham  
Zoom Hosts ..... Jim Ninos

### Meetings

Exercise with Jan Porter, Tuesdays at 11:00am

**March 23**, New Members meeting following worship in the Bergren Room

**March 30**, Diaconate meeting following worship in Bergren Room

### Upcoming Youth Sundays:, April 6

The Youth meet at 9:30am in the King David Room for breakfast and an inspiring lesson.

### Financial Update

As an independent church, not affiliated with any denomination, UUC is funded entirely by individual members and donors. We need a steady stream of financial support and volunteers to enable us to pay salaries and utilities and to help maintain our facilities and programs.

**Operating Income is now running behind budget by about 8.8% -- about the same as last month. Income through February 28: \$114,751.00. Income needed through February 28 to make budget: \$124,844.00.**

### Donate through Venmo



### **Lenten Project**

This year the Elders have decided to partner with Haiti Outreach for our Lenten project. As many of you may recall we have a longstanding relationship with Haiti Outreach and several of our members and former youth have been to Haiti. We also contributed to a water project there in conjunction with Michele Hluchy's "Water Planet" class. Details will follow as we firm up plans.



ALL

### **Welcome Packets for Newcomers**

We extend a special welcome to newcomers and visitors and encourage you to accept a welcome packet which includes information and treats from our UUC family. One of our deacons will be sure you receive one as you leave worship this morning.

### **Informational Meeting for Potential New Members**

The Diaconate will be holding a Membership Informational Meeting on Sunday, March 23 following the church service. This meeting is for anyone who is interested in joining as a Member or Associate Member of the Union University Church. Plan to join Re. Espinoza and the Deacons to learn more about the history and traditions of UUC, and to share your thoughts on what the UUC means to you. If you are interested but unable to attend, please contact us at [uucalfred@gmail.com](mailto:uucalfred@gmail.com) and we will arrange for another Membership Information opportunity for you.

# 667 Shall We Gather at the River

BEAUTIFUL RIVER 8.7.8.7 with refrain

Capo 1: (D) Eb (A) Bb

1 Shall we gath-er at the riv-er, where bright an-gel feet have trod,  
 2 On the mar-gin of the riv-er, wash-ing up its sil-ver spray,  
 3 Ere we reach the shin-ing riv-er, lay we ev-'ry bur-den down.  
 4 Soon we'll reach the shin-ing riv-er, soon our pil-grim-age will cease,

with its crys-tal tide for-ev-er flow-ing by the throne of God?  
 we will walk and wor-ship ev-er, all the hap-py gold-en day.  
 Grace our spir-its will de-liv-er, and pro-vide a robe and crown.  
 soon our hap-py hearts will quiv-er with the mel-o-dy of peace.

Refrain (G) Ab (D) Eb (A) Bb (D) Eb

Yes, we'll gath-er at the riv-er, the beau-ti-ful, the beau-ti-ful riv-er,

(G) Ab (D) Eb (A) Bb (D) Eb

gath-er with the saints at the riv-er that flows by the throne of God.

# 556 I Bind My Heart This Tide

UNION 6.7.7.7

Dm Gm Dm Gm F

1 I bind my heart this tide to the Gal - i - le - an's side, to the  
 2 I bind my soul this day to the neigh-bor far a - way and the  
 3 I bind my heart in thrall to the God, the Lord of all, to the  
 4 I bind my - self to peace, to make strife and en - vy cease. God!

Dm F Gm F Dm C G Dm

wounds of Cal - va - ry, to the Christ who died for me.  
 stran - ger near at hand, in this town and in this land.  
 Christ, the poor one's friend, and the Spir - it he did send.  
 Knit se - cure the cord of my thrall-dom to my Lord! A-men.

Text: Lauchlan M. Watt (Scotland), *The Tryst: A Book of the Soul*, 1907, alt.Music: J. Randall Zercher (USA), 1965, *The Mennonite Hymnal*, 1969, © 1965 J. Randall Zercher

# 453 As I Went Down to the River to Pray

Refrain AS I WENT DOWN TO THE RIVER Irregular

As I went down to the riv-er to pray, stud-y - in' a -

bout that good old way, and who shall wear the

star - ry crown, good Lord, show me the way. *Fine*

1 Oh, sis-ters, let's go down, let's go down, come on down.

Oh, sis-ters, let's go down, down to the riv-er to pray. *To refrain*

2 Oh, brothers, . . .

3 Oh, children, . . .

4 Oh, sinners, . . .

Text: African American spiritual (USA)  
Music: African American spiritual

