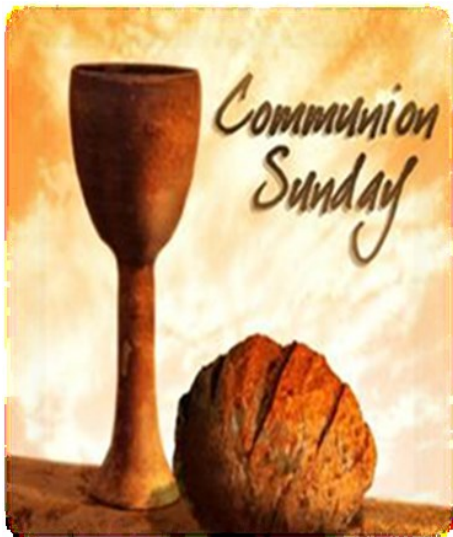


Prophet on the Edge





UNION CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*We welcome all people to experience God's love,
grow spiritually and engage in meaningful service.*

SERVICE OF THE WORD

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

COMMUNION SUNDAY

February 2, 2025

*Please stand as you are able.

This service is livestreaming. Thank you. ♥

ENTER TO WORSHIP

GATHERING MUSIC

*When you hear the music, please gather. Be seated and prepare for worship.
Lighting the Candle, we remember God's presence with us.*

PRELUDE "Come, Now is the Time to Worship"

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Words of Welcome & Announcements

INTROIT "Surely, the Presence (of the Lord Is in This Place)"

**Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place; I can feel His might power
and His grace. I can hear the brush of angels' wings, I see glory on each
face; Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.**

Greeting One Another

***No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.***

*Chorus:

***We are one in the bond of love; we are one in the bond of love, we have joined our
spirits with the Spirit of God, we are one in the bond of love.***

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: The heavens are telling the glory of God,

All: and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.

One: Day to day pours forth speech,

All: and night to night declares knowledge.

One: We give thanks to God who has created all that we have.

All: And we sing praise to God who has created all that we are. Come let us worship our God.

***INVOCATION**

Christ is with us!

Christ is in our midst!

Gracious God, we come before you knowing that what you call us to be and want for us is sometimes at odds with what the world expects from us. Sometimes we feel on the edge between the world we live in and the world you call us to be a part of. Show us your way, O Holy One, that we may learn how to be about your ministry even as we live on the edge. Open our hearts to receive your word and your guidance for our lives. Amen.

***HYMN OF PRAISE** “Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling”

PASTORAL PRAYER

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Black History Month Prayer

Compassionate God, you sent Jesus Christ to deliver us from all manner of injustice and inequalities. Create in us new hearts and enlarged visions to see the image of God in every person irrespective of background, race and ethnicity. May we be generous in our love of others as we work towards ending racism and injustice by creating communities of human flourishing, through Jesus Christ, who brings us peace, and in whose name, we pray. Amen.

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE “Keep Your Eyes On The Prize”

Heard the voice of Jesus say, “Come unto me, I am the way”

Keep your eyes on the prize, hold on, hold on.

When my way gets dark as night, I know the Lord will be my light,

Keep your eyes on the prize, hold on, hold on.

The only thing chain that we can stand is the chain of hand in hand

Keep your eyes on the prize, hold on, hold on.

Got my hand on the freedom plow wouldn't take nothing for my journey now

Keep your eyes on the prize, hold on, hold on.

Congregation: **O God, we pray for the strength to stand against injustice wherever it may be, recognizing that 'injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.'** Guide our hearts to see the interconnectedness of all people and inspire us to act with compassion and courage to build a world where human dignity and equal justice prevail for all.

Song: "We Are Marching in the Light of God"

We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching in the Light of God. We are marching in the Light of God.

We are marching, marching, marching. We are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, marching, marching. We are marching in the light of God.

(Repeat)

***DOXOLOGY** (*Deacons George & Ada to bring offerings forward.*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God all creatures here below;

Praise God for all that Love has done:

Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT**

(All children and youth are welcome to attend the Sunday School Class.)

READING OF SCRIPTURES

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Now the word of the LORD came to me saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy." ⁷ But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a boy'; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. ⁸ Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD." Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me, "Now I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

Psalms 71: 1-6

In you, O God, I take refuge;

let me never be put to shame.

In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me;

incline your ear to me and save me.

Be to me a rock of refuge, a strong fortress, to save me,

for you are my rock and my fortress.

Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked,

from the grasp of the unjust and cruel.

For you, O God, are my hope, my trust, O God, from my youth.

Upon you I have leaned from my birth;

it was you who took me from my mother's womb.

My praise is continually of you.

Luke 4:21-32

He came to Nazareth where he had been reared. As he always did on the Sabbath, he went to the meeting place. When he stood up to read, he was handed the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll, he found the place where it was written, God's Spirit is on me; he's chosen me to preach the Message of good news to the poor, Sent me to announce pardon to prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, To set the burdened and battered free, to announce, "This is God's year to act!" He rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the assistant, and sat down. Every eye in the place was on him, intent. Then he started in, "You've just heard Scripture make history. It came true just now in this place." All who were there, watching and listening, were surprised at how well he spoke. But they also said, "Isn't this Joseph's son, the one we've known since he was a youngster?" He answered, "I suppose you're going to quote the proverb, 'Doctor, go heal yourself. Do here in your hometown what we heard you did in Capernaum.' Well, let me tell you something: No prophet is ever welcomed in his home-town. Isn't it a fact that there were many widows in Israel at the time of Elijah during that three and a half years of drought when famine devastated the land, but the only widow to whom Elijah was sent was in Sarepta in Sidon? And there were many lepers in Israel at the time of the prophet Elisha but the only one cleansed was Naaman the Syrian." That set everyone in the meeting place seething with anger. They threw him out, banishing him from the village, then took him to a mountain cliff at the edge of the village to throw him to his doom, but he gave them the slip and was on his way. He went down to Capernaum, a village in Galilee. He was teaching the people on the Sabbath. They were surprised and impressed—his teaching was so forthright, so confident, so authoritative, not the quibbling and quoting they were used to.

Thanks be to God!

SONG OF PREPARATION "Glory, Glory, Hallelujah"

Arr. Howard Helvey

Duet: Tom Richards & Pastor Sheila

SERMON

"Fill Us with Faith"

Rev. Dr. Sheila Harvey

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you,

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

The gifts of creation are on the table.

The dreams of God are set before us.

Let us give thanks for God's gifts.





We **WELCOME** each of you to this celebration of worship. If you are visiting, we invite you to sign our Guest register in the Narthex. Offering envelopes are found in the pocket on the back of the chairs in the sanctuary for your convenience.

Participating in Today's Service:

Readers

Rev. Michael Ann, Joanna Hollis, Chris Gaetano

Assisting

Ada Harvey

Union's Joys & Prayer Concerns

Joys:

All Birthdays in February! Our Church Family! Live Streaming! Communion Sunday! Black History Month!

Concerns:

Linda Padmore's niece, Yvette; Alice Payne; Bonnie Avery's family member, Gary; Rosemarie Lightfoots's sister, Anita; Marion & Criss Gaetano's family & friends; Charlie Rodriguez's family and friends; Ada Harvey's grandson, Grant; Melanie Shepherd; Richard Lightfoot; Beth White; Louise's friend, Martha; Susan Harrell's husband, George; David's family members, Evelyn Soza, Jerman Rodrigues, Carmen, Margarita; Donna's brother, Clevert; George Gerson's Brother, Michael; Melanie's Friend, Donna; Borjana's son, Petar; Ruth Deischer's sister-in-law, Susan Deischer; Renna McGinnis; George Gerson's friends, Diane & Timothy Scott; George Gerson's nephew, Glenn; Ruth Cassidy's husband, Bill; Rose's daughter, Tyshawna for healing & recovery; Jan Mark; Rod Jennings; Jan Mark's son, Gary; Justice & Peace efforts; grieving, depression and anxiety; all refugees; Ukraine War; Puerto Rico; Haiti; Gun violence everywhere; Environmental concerns; Maui, HI, Florida; Israel conflict; Hurricane victims; Wild fires; Immigrant families



Every Sunday beautiful flowers adorn our altar. We have a flower chart for sign-ups. Also, you can call the office or send an email to office@unionucc.net. Garden flowers are \$10 and floral arrangements are \$40. As an added bonus you can list the flowers in the bulletin in memory or in honor of someone or a special occasion. You are also welcome to take the \$40 arrangement home.

Sunday School Highlight

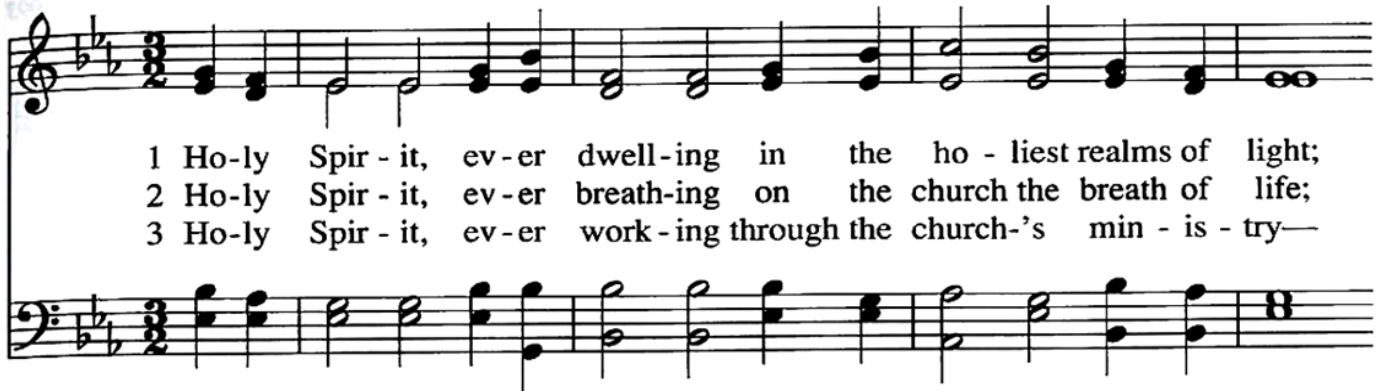
What happened after Jesus spoke in his hometown synagogue? We'll find out as we continue the story this week. Perhaps it will surprise you, perhaps you will understand from Jesus' perspective or his neighbors'. Come and join us as we explore this story and our reactions to it, as well as what it might teach us. Looking forward to being with you in class!!!



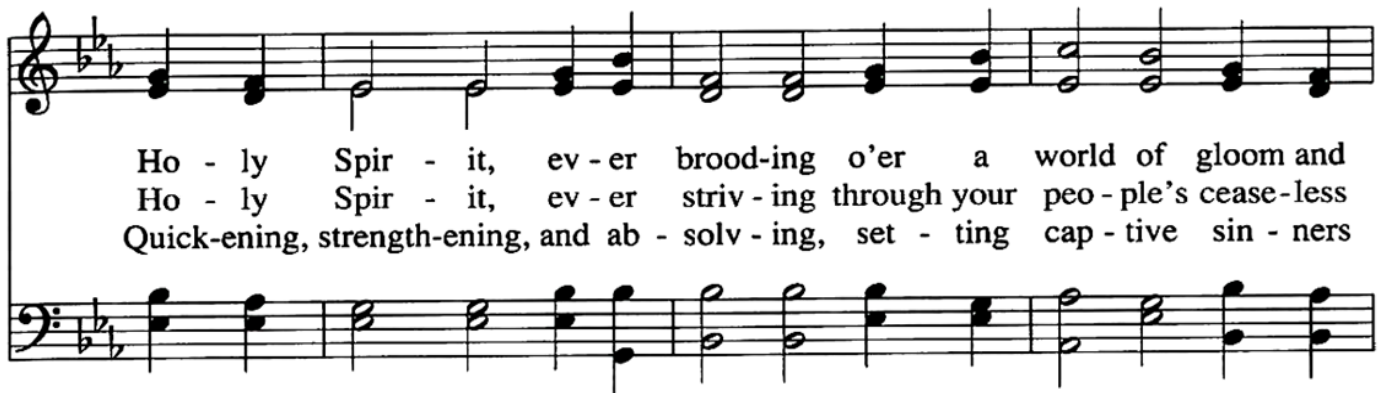
Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling

59

Timothy Rees, 1922; alt.



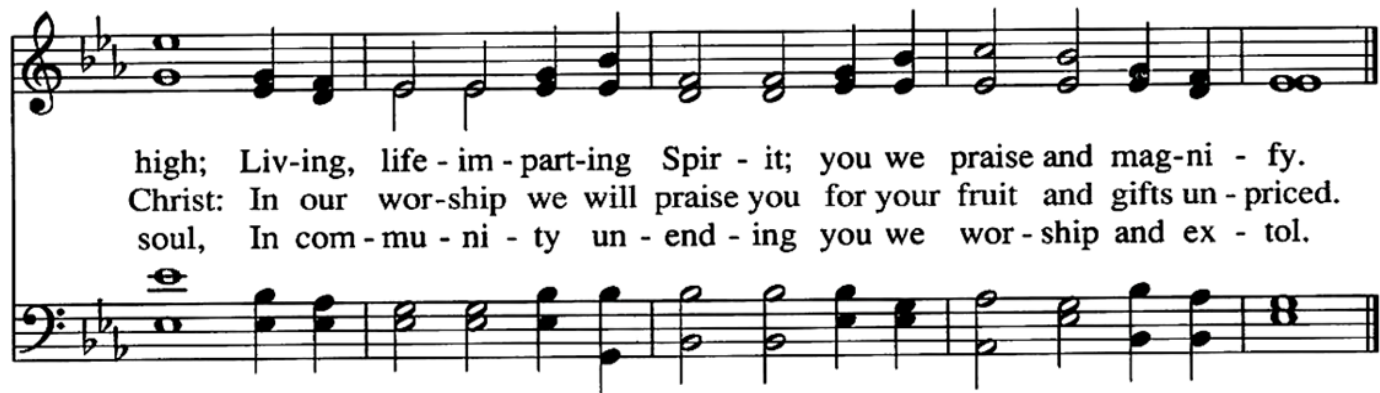
1 Ho-ly Spir - it, ev - er dwell - ing in the ho - liest realms of light;
2 Ho-ly Spir - it, ev - er breath - ing on the church the breath of life;
3 Ho-ly Spir - it, ev - er work - ing through the church - 's min - is - try—



Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er brood - ing o'er a world of gloom and
Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er striv - ing through your peo - ple's cease - less
Quick - ening, strength - ening, and ab - solv - ing, set - ting cap - tive sin - ners



blight; Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er rais - ing earth - bound souls to glo - ry
strife; Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er form - ing in the church the mind of
free; Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er bind - ing age to age and soul to



high; Liv - ing, life - im - part - ing Spir - it; you we praise and mag - ni - fy.
Christ: In our wor - ship we will praise you for your fruit and gifts un - priced.
soul, In com - mu - ni - ty un - end - ing you we wor - ship and ex - tol.

705 It Is Well with My Soul

He ransoms me unharned from the battle waged against me. Psalm 55:18

> 1. When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, When sor - rows like
 2. Tho' Sa - tan should buf - fet, tho' tri - als should come, Let this blest as -
 > 3. My sin - O, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous tho't - My sin - not in
 > 4. And, Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight, The clouds be rolled

sea bil - lows roll; What - ev - er my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
 sur - ance con - trol, That Christ hath re - gard - ed my help - less es - fate,
 part, but the whole, Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
 back as a scroll, The trump shall re - sound and the Lord shall de - scend.

Refrain

"It is well, it is well with my soul." It is well with my
 And hath shed His own blood for my soul. It is well with my
 Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul It is well
 "R - ven so" - it is well with my soul.

soul,
 with my soul, It is well, it is well with my soul.

Optional repeat refrain setting

mf With confidence
 It is well It is well with my soul, with my soul,

It is well, it is well with my soul. It is soul.
2nd time f

GLEANNING: Feeding Our Neighbors



All are invited to participate in our annual Gleaning mission – to gather fresh food for families in need. There is a sign-up sheet on the soundboard for all who would like to participate in gleaning. We will meet at the church parking lot on **February 15, 2025 at 7:45 am.**
Donna Minott, Mission & Outreach

Nehemiah Action

JOIN US AS WE LIVE OUT
MICAHA 6:8
MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2025
AT 7:00PM

IN-PERSON: PALM BEACH COUNTY CONVENTION CENTER
ONLINE: ZOOM



WHAT IS PEACE?

REGISTRATION REQUIRED:
PEACEPBC.ORG/2022_NA

PLEASE SIGN-UP ON THE SOUNDBOARD.

THE LORD'S PLACE MARCH TO END HOMELESSNESS

A powerful event that brings our community together to combat the crisis of homelessness in Palm Beach County, FL. Everyone deserves a safe and secure place to call home.

JOIN US!

Friday, February 28, 2025

March begins: 2 p.m.

Ceremony: 4 - 6 p.m.



561.578.4928



Info@TheLordsPlace.org



TheLordsPlace.org

EASTER HANDBELL CHOIR



All are invited to participate in Union's
Easter Handbell Choir.

No Experience Necessary.

If interested, please sign-up on the
soundboard or contact the office by
email: Office @unionucc.net.



Soup-er Bowl Sunday!

February 9, 2025

Please bring a can of soup (or two) to help stock our food pantry. This act of love helps us to continue providing food to our WPB neighbors. Wear your team's favorite colors. Thank you in advance for your 'Soup-er' donation!

**UNION CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
5088 SUMMIT BLVD, WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33415**

Ministers of the Church

All of Us

Pastor

Rev. Dr. Sheila Harvey

Music Director

Donya Lane

Email Address:

Pastor Sheila sheila@unionucc.net

Office - Zaida Pacheco

zaida@unionucc.net / office@unionucc.net

Union Congregational Church, UCC:

unionucc.net

Florida Conference, UCC

www.uccfla.org

National UCC:

www.ucc.org

Office Phone: 561-686-0330 - please leave a message.

Go to www.unionucc.net to see more of our news.

Office Hours are: Tuesday thru Friday from 9:00AM – 1:00 PM.

THIS WEEK AT UNION UCC

Sunday, February 2, 2025 - Communion Sunday!

10:30 AM Worship – Facebook Live Streaming

11:15 AM Fellowship - All are welcome!

Tuesday - Friday - Prayer Room is Available

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Open during office hours!

Sunday, February 9, 2025 - Souper Bowl of Caring

10:30 AM Worship – Facebook Live Streaming

11:15 AM Fellowship - All are welcome!

11:45 AM Congregational Annual Meeting



Justice Rally

Monday, March 10, 2025

7:00 PM 8:30 PM

This is when we report who we have confirmed for the Nehemiah Action and when the Research Committees will report the research and the proposed action to address the community problems we voted on in the fall. More information to come.



Prophet on the Edge

Jesus just couldn't stop with a feel-good message for the friends and relatives gathered to hear him teach in his hometown synagogue.

That day, among those who had watched him grow up, Jesus pushed the God envelope, informing the congregation that the miracles they heard him perform in Capernaum were not happening anytime soon in Nazareth.

What? Why not? Explain to us Jesus why you view the rejected, the afflicted and the outsider more worthy of healing than your own people? The mood quickly changes. The crowd goes from being impressed to being enraged.

It was one thing to hear about the blind receiving sight and the prisoners being set free, as Jesus' read for them from the scroll. Those words had been spoken before by other teachers. But those teachers let the words remain safely on the parchment. Jesus, though, expounds on the power and impact of God's word, making them leap with new life off the scroll and into the crowd.

Those in the synagogue should have seen it coming. Jesus did begin his teaching telling them that the Spirit of the Lord was upon him — and that Spirit does not sugarcoat anything.

Jesus knew that there was no such thing of a hometown advantage when it came to preaching God's truth. He wasn't surprised by the scoffer whispering loudly from the back of the room the derogatory comment, "Isn't this Joseph's son?"

He wasn't surprised either when the crowd got violent, kicking him out of the synagogue and chasing him to a cliff on the edge of town.

He wasn't surprised, and neither should we be.

The adage that truth is hard to hear is true because truth never travels alone. Truth is always accompanied with change, and change is always greeted by yet another companion — resistance.

Jesus, our prophet on the edge — literally on the edge of a cliff and figuratively on the edge of making us all a bit uncomfortable — knew that while it was easier to tell people what they wanted to hear, half-truths and blatant lies wouldn't further God's vision of a peaceable kingdom. What would create a beloved community, where insiders and outsiders were one, was truth, which always asks for much-needed change.

Jesus is in our hometown this day. Will we listen with open ears and hearts to him? Or will we chase him away because we just aren't ready for the changes that the truth will ask of us?

Patient and Loving God, every time we pray "thy kingdom come" we realize that we do not fully grasp what that kingdom is. Your ways differ from ours. Help us to listen to your Holy Voice and, in the listening may we find the courage to hear truths that will lead to changing this world for the better. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.