

A photograph of a young girl with light skin and dark hair, looking out from behind vertical metal bars. Her hands are visible, gripping the bars. The image has a somber, blue-toned aesthetic. Overlaid on the right side of the image is the text "Breaking Chains" in a white, bold, sans-serif font. The text is surrounded by several white, hand-drawn, scribbled lines that radiate outwards, giving it a sense of movement or breaking through. The background is blurred, showing more bars and a hint of light from the left.

Breaking Chains



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 SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER COMMUNION SUNDAY

June 1, 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

"Enter, Rejoice, and Come In"

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Words of Welcome & Announcements

INTROIT

"Come By Here, My Lord"

**Come by here, my Lord, come by here. Come by here, my Lord,
come by here. Come by here, my Lord, come by here. Oh Lord, come by
here.**

**Someone needs you, Lord, come by here. Someone needs you, Lord,
come by here. Someone needs you, Lord, come by here. Oh Lord, come by
here.**

**Someone's prayin', Lord, come by here. Someone's prayin', Lord,
come by here. Someone's prayin', Lord, come by here. Oh, Lord, come by
here.**

**Kum Ba Yah, my Lord, come by here. Kum Ba Yah, my Lord, come by here.
Kum Ba Yah, my Lord, come by here. Oh, Lord, come by 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: Listen. Can you hear it?

All: The sound of those imprisoned.

One: Listen. Can you hear it?

All: The sound of those who have been silenced because of gender, race, age, ability, or orientation.

One: Listen. Can you hear it?

All: The sound of those who cannot speak up for themselves.

One: Listen. Can you hear it?

All: Let us, the people of God, clear their throats, and break the silence.

One: Come, let us worship God.

INVOCATION

Christ is with us!

Christ is in our midst!

Holy One, you come to us as a flash of lightning, an uncontrollable source of energy and power. Even while we try to keep you safely within the confines of our liturgy, hymns, and theology, your spirit continues breaking forth in new and unexpected ways, reminding us that you are the One in whom the whole Earth rejoices. In this time of worship and prayer, loosen our chains, open our hearts that we may hear and respond to the Spirit's call. Amen.

***HYMN OF PRAISE**

"There Is a Name I Love to Hear"

PASTORAL PRAYER

Sharing Joys and Concerns

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

"In the Garden"

Carly Gaefe,
Congregation

I come to the garden alone while the dew is still on the roses, and the voice I hear falling on my ear, the Son of God discloses.

Refrain: And he walks with me, and he talks with me, and he tells me I am his own; and the joy we share as we tarry there, none other has ever known.

OFFERTORY MOMENT

Deacon Recognition of Ada Harvey

George Gerson

Song: "No Greater"

Michelle Benght,
Congregation

Refrain: **No greater friend I know, No greater peace I know.**

No greater hope, I know. No greater joy I know.

I could search high and low. Any everywhere I go.

No greater river flows. Than You Jesus. (Repeat)

If He's greater, Let Him be greater

If He's stronger, Let Him be stronger

If He's higher, Let Him be higher

Let Him be higher, Let Him be higher (Refrain)

***DOXOLOGY** (*Deacons Joanna & Isaac 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.)

PSALM 97

R: Rejoice in God, O you righteous! Give thanks to God's holy name!

God is ruler! Let the earth rejoice;

let the many coastlands be glad!

Clouds and thick darkness are all around God;

righteousness and justice are the foundation of God's throne.

Fire goes before God,

and consumes God's adversaries on every side.

God's lightnings light up the world;

the earth sees and trembles.

The mountains melt like wax before God,

before the God of all the earth.

The heavens proclaim God's righteousness;

and all the peoples behold God's glory.

All worshipers of images are put to shame, those who make their boast in worthless idols;

all gods bow down before God.

Zion hears and is glad,

and the towns of Judah rejoice, because of your judgments, O God.

For you, O God, are most high over all the earth;

you are exalted far above all gods.

God loves those who hate evil;

God guards the lives of God's faithful; God rescues them from the hand of the wicked.

Light dawns for the righteous,

and joy for the upright in heart.

Rejoice in God, O you righteous,

and give thanks to God's holy name!

Acts 16:16-34

One day, on our way to the place of prayer, a slave girl ran into us. She was a psychic and, with her fortunetelling, made a lot of money for the people who owned her. She started following Paul around, calling everyone's attention to us by yelling out, "These men are working for the Most High God. They're laying out the road of salvation for you!" She did this for a number of days until Paul, finally fed up with her, turned and commanded the spirit that possessed her, "Out! In the name of Jesus Christ, get out of her!" And it was gone, just like that. When her owners saw that their lucrative little business was suddenly bankrupt, they went after Paul and Silas, roughed them up and dragged them into the market square. Then the police arrested them and pulled them into a court with the accusation, "These men are disturbing the peace—dangerous Jewish agitators subverting our Roman law and order." By this time the crowd had turned into a restless mob out for blood. The judges went along with the mob, had Paul and Silas's clothes ripped off and ordered a public beating. After beating them black-and-blue, they threw them into jail, telling the jail keeper to put them under heavy guard so there would be no chance of escape. He did just that—threw them into the maximum security cell in the jail and clamped leg irons on them. Along about midnight, Paul and Silas were at prayer and singing a robust hymn to God. The other prisoners couldn't believe their ears. Then, without warning, a huge earthquake! The jailhouse tottered, every door flew open, all the prisoners were loose. Startled from sleep, the jailer saw all the doors swinging loose on their hinges. Assuming that all the prisoners had escaped, he pulled out his sword and was about to do himself in, figuring he was as good as dead anyway, when Paul stopped him: "Don't do that! We're all still here! Nobody's run away!" The jailer got a torch and ran inside. Badly shaken, he collapsed in front of Paul and Silas. He led them out of the jail and asked, "Sirs, what do I have to do to be saved, to really live?" They said, "Put your entire trust in the Master Jesus. Then you'll live as you were meant to live—and everyone in your house included!" They went on to spell out in detail the story of the Master—the entire family got in on this part. They never did get to bed that night. The jailer made them feel at home, dressed their wounds, and then—he couldn't wait till morning!—was baptized, he and everyone in his family. There in his home, he had food set out for a festive meal. It was a night to remember: He and his entire family had put their trust in God; everyone in the house was in on the celebration.

Thanks be to God!

SONG OF PREPARATION "Glory, Glory, Hallelujah"

Arr. Howard Helvey
Tom Richards & Pastor Sheila

SERMON

"Breaking Chains"

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.

At all times, great God, may our grateful hearts give you praise.

Pastor: We remember Jesus – born of Mary, Joseph and God – who was born in Bethlehem and who grew up in Nazareth.

All: We remember that he was a son and a brother, a worker and a friend.

Pastor: We remember Jesus gathered disciples and taught them about a way of peace and justice, of love and blessing.

All: He called it the Kingdom of God.

Pastor: We remember Jesus gathered his friends in an upper room and asked them to love one another as he had loved them. We remember that Jesus said, "Every time you take the bread and break it and every time you bless the cup and drink from it, you are to remember me."

All: Every time we eat and drink in Jesus' name, He is present with us and we are indeed one body! As many as we are, we are one in Christ.

Pastor: Now remembering the events of the last week of Jesus' life – how he entered into Jerusalem in great joy and how he left carrying a cross– we take our place at the table of the Lord's Supper to bear his sorrows and pledge ourselves to love and serve him. Pour out your Spirit, God, on these gifts of bread and wine that they may signify for us the body and blood of Jesus Christ – our teacher, our friend, and our Savior. May Christ's loving spirit work through us to serve and renew the world God loves.

All: All glory and honor is yours, God most holy, now and forever. Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

COMMUNION HYMN

"Let Us Break Bread Together"

Let us break bread together on our knees; let us break bread together on our knees.

**Refrain: When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun, My God,
have mercy on me.**

**Let us drink wine together on our knees; let us drink wine together on our knees.
R**

Let us praise God together on our knees; let us praise God together on our knees. R

ALLELUIA

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia**



***CLOSING HYMN**

“Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior”

***COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

“No Greater”

DEPART TO SERVE



SAVE THE DATE!
CELEBRATE
JUNETEENTH

Sunday, June 22, 2025

Union's Special Musical Guest:
Steel Drummer, James Graham

&

Summer Music Ensembles





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

Tom Richards, Linda Padmore

Deacon Assisting

Ada Harvey

Union's Joys & Prayer Concerns

Joys: All Birthdays in June! Our Church Family! Live Streaming! Seventh Sunday of Easter!

Concerns:

Teresa Byrd; JJ's (Jiajin) cousin, I-Chen Tsail; Lynn McNaughton; Ariel Hines; Lynn McNaughton's cousin, Cade; Joanna Hollis's family friend, Gavin Weiss; Linda Padmore's daughter, Jeannine; Linda Harvey; Susan Young's sister, Genie; Kirk Dorhout; Evelyn Chouris; Charlotte Snowden; Renna McGinnis; Beth White's family & friends; Frank Byrd's family & friends; Melanie Shepherd; Ada Harvey and family; Charlene Buck; Linda Padmore's niece, Yvette & sister, Christine; Bonnie Avery's family member, Greg; Rosemarie Lightfoots's sister, Anita; Charlie Rodriguez's family and friends; Beth White; Louise's friend, Martha; 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; Attack on DEI; Medicaid & Food Assistance Programs

Flowers today are presented by Ruth Cassidy in honor of Ada Harvey.



"We thank you Ada for your love and dedication to this church.

We pray that God will bless you and your husband as you move to be closer to your family". ❤️



Sunday School Highlight

Join Rebecca and Vanessa in Sunday School this morning. Together you'll look at a tricky situation that Paul and Silas are in. Then, you'll try to solve some other tricky situations with compassion and love! The Food Pantry bag set up will be your mission help for the week, and you'll finish by heading back into the sanctuary after worship for communion with Pastor Sheila. Thanks so much to Rebecca and Vanessa for teaching this week!!



There Is a Name I Love to Hear

(O How I Love Jesus)

Frederick Whitfield, 1855; alt.



1 There is a name I love to hear, I love to sing its worth;
 2 It tells my Sav - ior's love for all; Christ died to set us free;
 3 It bids me serve a - mid the wrath God's peo - ple face each day,

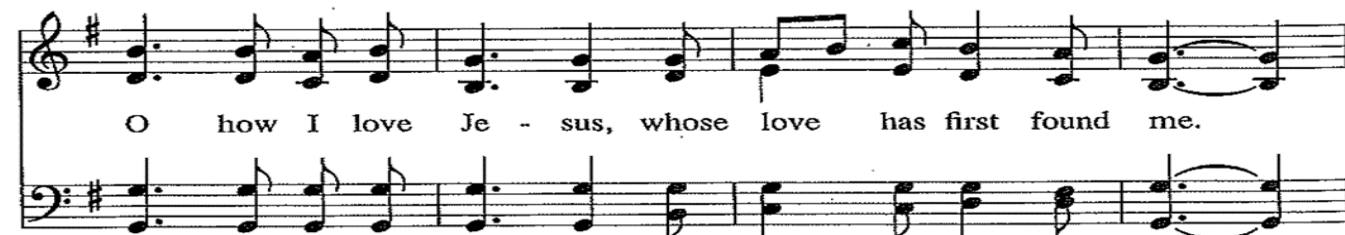


It sounds like mu - sic to my ear, the sweet - est name on earth.
 What - ev - er prob - lems may be - fall, we'll live in dig - ni - ty.
 And sheds a - long life's trou - bled path bright sun - shine on my way.

Refrain



O how I love Je - sus, O how I love Je - sus,



O how I love Je - sus, whose love has first found me.



Summer Handbell Choir

Kids, Teens, & Adults

All are invited to participate in Union's
 Handbell Choir during the summer
 months of July and August.

No Experience Necessary.

Tom Richards will be our Handbell
 Director.

If interested, please sign-up or contact
 the office via

email: zaida@unionucc.net.



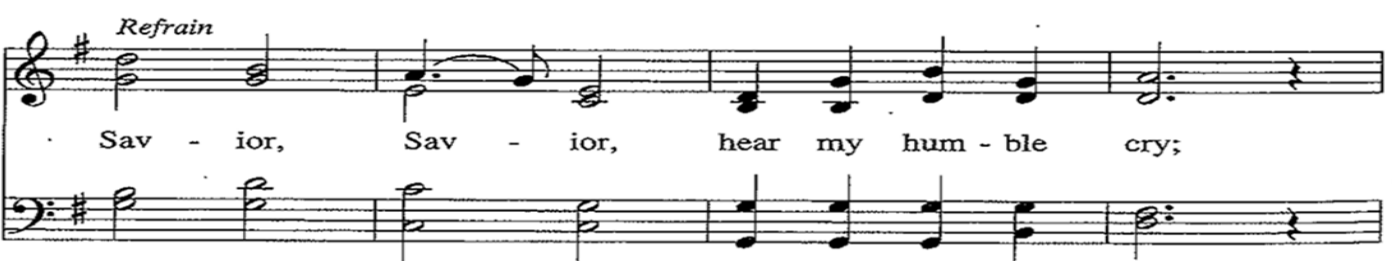


1 Pass me not, O gen - tle Sav - ior, hear my hum - ble cry;
 2 Let me at your throne of mer - cy find a sweet re - lief;
 3 Trust - ing on - ly in your mer - it, would I seek your face;
 4 Be the Spring of all my com - fort, more than life to me;

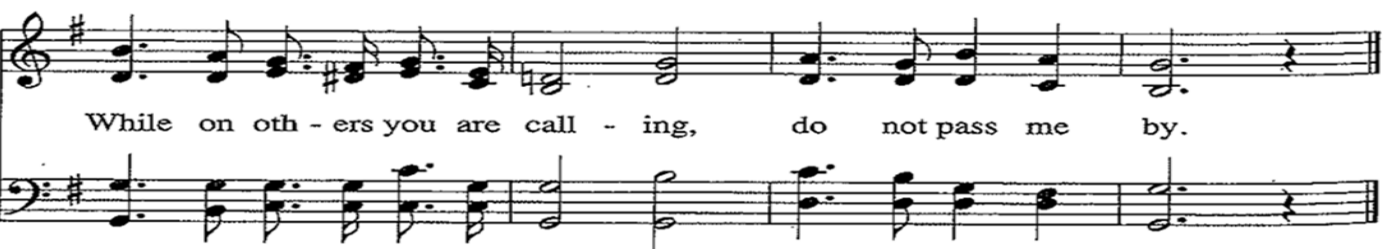


While on oth - ers you are call - ing, do not pass me by.
 Kneel - ing there in deep con - tri - tion, help my un - be - lief.
 Heal my wound - ed, bro - ken spir - it, save me by your grace.
 Not just here on earth be - side me, but e - ter - nal - ly.

Refrain



Sav - ior, Sav - ior, hear my hum - ble cry;



While on oth - ers you are call - ing, do not pass me by.

SUMMER Praise ENSEMBLE

Kids, Teens, & Adults

All are invited to participate in Union's
 Summer Praise ensemble
 during the summer months.

If interested, please sign-up or contact the
 office via
 email: zaida@unionucc.net.

UNION CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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Pastor

Music Director

Email Address:

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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, June 1, 2025 Communion Sunday

10:00 AM Worship – Facebook Live Streaming

11:15 AM Fellowship - All are welcome!

Tuesday - Friday – The Sanctuary is Available for Prayer!

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

Sunday, June 8, 2025

10:00 AM Worship – Facebook Live Streaming

11:15 AM Fellowship - All are welcome!

11:45 AM Summer Music Rehearsal & Meeting

7:00 PM Trustee Meeting Via Zoom



Saturday, June 21, 2025

Day One of VBS will be "BEACH DAY" at John D. MacArthur Beach State Park. We will study scripture, participate in a beach clean up, explore nature, and have lots of **FUN!**

Please be sure to wear appropriate clothes to get wet in, bring a change of dry clothes, sunblock, bring a beach/lawn chair and a towel. Carpool leaves the Church at 10:30am. Beach Day is from 11am – 3pm.

Sunday, June 22, 2025

Day Two of VBS will be at Union as we share our experience going "Into The Deep," in Worship and during Fellowship Hour.



Congratulations
to our students
for completing
another school year!



June 1, 2025

Acts 16:16-34

Breaking Chains

As a young girl I participated in a living history camp, experiencing what life was like in 18th-century America. There was butter churning, wool spinning and baking pies in beehive ovens. It was fun until I went to the blacksmith shop to deliver water to the smithies.

There in the corner I spotted a strange animal trap. In my naivete, I asked what animal it was for. My ears stung when I heard “human.” It was a slave shackle. Before I knew it, the heavy metal was placed in my hands, making my skin cringe. I dropped it, grabbed my water bucket and ran.

For the rest of the day, as much as I tried, I couldn’t shake the shackle from my mind. How is it that God’s children can chain one another like that?

Slave trade might be a closed chapter in our country’s history, but the chains of hate, fear and ignorance are still holding others down. Yet at the heart of the Gospel is the undeniable, powerful truth of a chain-breaking God whose love has the power to set all people free.

Just ask Paul and Silas about this great and liberating God.

After getting into trouble by proclaiming the message of a loving Savior for all, the men find themselves arrested and imprisoned, with their feet placed in stocks. And so, they did the only thing they knew they could. They prayed and sang hymns to God. As their fellow prisoners listened to them in disbelief something even more unbelievable happened. An earthquake shook the ground, breaking not only the cell doors but the stocks and shackles as well. Paul, Silas and all the prisoners were free. They chose, though, to remain and give their powerful testimony of the God who broke their chains to the dumbstruck prison guard.

I still shudder when I think of that slave shackle in my young, naïve hands so long ago. I shudder even more when I think of the invisible chains that imprison others — and many times, even ourselves.

And I wonder why our world is so quiet. If prayers and praise to God is what it takes to break chains today, then why aren’t we praying and praising more — and more loudly? Why are so many painfully shuffling around in life with the only song echoing in the streets being the clanging of their chains? Who will have the courage to sing to God in the dank cells of uncertainty, fear and doubt and finally break the chains that need breaking?

Chain-breaking God, listen to your children praying this day for Your liberating love to set all those who are suffering and struggling free. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

(Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson is a communications specialist for the United Church of Christ and author of today’s Sunday Bulletin.)