

A person in silhouette, holding a dark umbrella, walks across a wet, reflective street. The scene is framed by a dark border. On the left, a tree branch with yellow leaves hangs down. In the background, a small, dark, bottle-like object sits on a ledge. The overall mood is somber and contemplative.

*In God's Presence*



**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  
JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION**

**June 22, 2025**

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

*This service is livestreaming. Thank you. ♥*

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**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 & PROCESSIONAL "Marching in the Light of God"**

Juneteenth VBS Ensemble and The Platinum Steppers

**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)**

**THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH**

Words of Welcome & Announcements

**INTROIT**

"This Is the Day"

Tom Richards  
Congregation

**This is the day, this is the day that our God has made, that our God  
has made, we will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be  
glad in it. This is the day that our God has made, we will rejoice and  
be glad in it; this is the day, this is the day that our God has made.**

\*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: O God, we wait,

**All: and our waiting is for you.**

One: O God, we long,

**All: and our longing is for you.**

One: O God, we yearn,

**All: and our yearning is for you.**

One: And in silence,

**All: we listen for your Spirit.**

One: And in silence,

**All: we hear our names.**

One: And in silence,

**All: we are found.**

## **INVOCATION**

Christ is with us!

**Christ is in our midst!**

**Sacred space, holding all silence; silence, holding the whole word of God; word of God, holding all truth for the world; truth for the world, holding every hope of life; hope of living, holding every grace of God; the grace of God, holding every moment of heaven; moments of heaven, held in sacred space; sacred space, holding all silence; in this silence, God, we meet. Amen.**

## **\*HYMN OF PRAISE**

“Lift Every Voice and Sing”

## **PASTORAL PRAYER**

**Sharing Joys and Concerns**

Vacation Bible School Prayers

***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**

“This Little Light of Mine”

Brandon Guillaume  
Juneteenth VBS Ensemble

**This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine...This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine...This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine..let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

**Won't let the Satan blow it out... I'm gonna let it shine... Won't let the Satan blow it out... I'm gonna let it shine... Won't let the Satan blow it out... I'm gonna let it shine..let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

Everywhere I go, **I'm gonna let it shine...** Everywhere I go, **I'm gonna let it shine...** Everywhere I go, **I'm gonna let it shine...let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

This little light of mine, **I'm gonna let it shine...** This little light of mine, **I'm gonna let it shine...** This little light of mine, **I'm gonna let it shine..let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

## **JUNETEENTH OFFERTORY MOMENT**

Steve Spencer

Special Performance by **The Platinum Steppers**

Song: "One Love"

Juneteenth VBS Ensemble

**\*DOXOLOGY** (*Deacons George & 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.)*

## **READING OF SCRIPTURES**

### **1 Kings 19:1-4,8-15**

Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life like the life of one of them by this time tomorrow." Then he was afraid; he got up and fled for his life, and came to Beer-sheba, which belongs to Judah; he left his servant there. But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: "It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors."

He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God. At that place he came to a cave, and spent the night there. Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and



stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." Then the LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram.

## **Psalms 42**

As a deer longs for flowing streams,

**so my soul longs for you, O God.**

My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.

**When shall I come and behold the face of God?**

My tears have been my food day and night,

**while people say to me continually, "Where is your God?"**

These things I remember,

**as I pour out my soul:**

how I went with the throng, and led them in procession to the house of God,

**with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving, a multitude keeping festival.**

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me?

**Hope in God; for I shall again praise God, my help and my God.**

My soul is cast down within me;

**therefore I remember you from the land of Jordan and of Hermon, from Mount Mizar.**

Deep calls to deep at the thunder of your cataracts;

**all your waves and your billows have gone over me.**

By day the Lord commands God's steadfast love,

**and at night God's song is with me, a prayer to the God of my life.**

I say to God, my rock, "Why have you forgotten me?"

**"Why must I walk about mournfully because the enemy oppresses me?"**

As with a deadly wound in my body, my adversaries taunt me,

**while they say to me continually, "Where is your God?"**

Why are you cast down, O my soul,

**and why are you disquieted within me?**

Hope in God; for I shall again praise the one,

**who is my help and my God.**

## **Galatians 2:15-21, 23-29**

We Jews know that we have no advantage of birth over "non-Jewish sinners." We know very well that we are not set right with God by rule-keeping but only through personal faith in . Until the time when we were mature enough to respond freely in faith to the living God, we were carefully surrounded and protected by the Mosaic law. The law was like those Greek tutors, with which you are familiar, who escort children to school and protect them from danger or distraction, making sure the children will really get to the place they set out for.

But now you have arrived at your destination: By faith in Christ you are in direct relationship with God. Your baptism in Christ was not just washing you up for a fresh start. It also involved dressing you in an adult faith wardrobe—Christ's life, the

fulfillment of God's original promise. In Christ's family there can be no division into Jew and non-Jew, slave and free, male and female. Among us you are all equal. That is, we are all in a common relationship with Jesus Christ. Also, since you are Christ's family, then you are Abraham's famous "descendant," heirs according to the covenant promises.

***Thanks be to God!***

**SONG OF PREPARATION**

"People Like You"

Steel Drummer  
James Graham

**SERMON**

"In God's Presence"

Rev. Dr. Sheila Harvey

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

"God Be With You"

**\*COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE & RECESSIONAL**

"One Love"

Arr. Bob Marley

*(Instrumental Only)*

***DEPART TO SERVE***

**THANKS TO OUR SPECIAL GUESTS!**



Sunday, June 22, 2025

Union's Special Performances:  
Steel Drummer, James Graham,  
Platinum Steppers &  
Juneteenth VBS Ensemble.



After Worship, all are welcome to  
the Juneteenth Fellowship and  
VBS pizza party!



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**

Junior Deacon, Brandon, George Gerson, Simone Shah

**Deacon Assisting**

Judith Mooers

## Union's Joys & Prayer Concerns

**Joys:** All Birthdays in June! Our Church Family! Live Streaming! VBS Sunday! Juneteenth Celebration!

### Concerns:

Jane Grandusky's husband, Mark; Bonnie Avery's family members, Greg & Nancy Avery; Teresa Byrd; JJ's (Jiajin) cousin, I-Chen Tsail family & friends; Lynn McNaughton's mom and 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; Rosemarie Lightfoots's sister, Anita; 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



In Celebration of Juneteenth & VBS Sunday!

With Love,  
Pastor Sheila



### Sunday School Highlight

This is our **VBS SUNDAY!!** We will begin by sharing in worship from our time together yesterday! We went **Into the Deep** on Saturday, and we will continue to explore our connection to God's creation, and how we can care for one another. Paul calls us to be clothed in Christ. What does that mean to you, and how does that help us as we bring the light of Christ to everyone and everything?



## 540 LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING

Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.  
Psalm 148:13



1. Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing, Till earth and heav - en  
2. Ston - y the road we trod, Bit - ter the chas - t'ning  
3. God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent



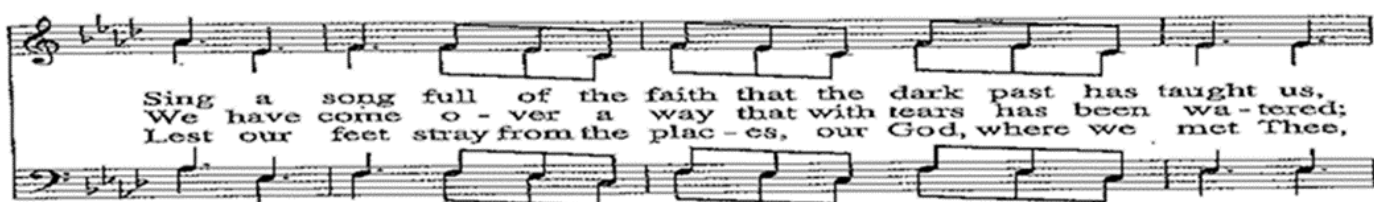
ring, Ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er -  
rod, Felt in the days when hope un - born - had  
tears, Thou who hast brought us thus far on the



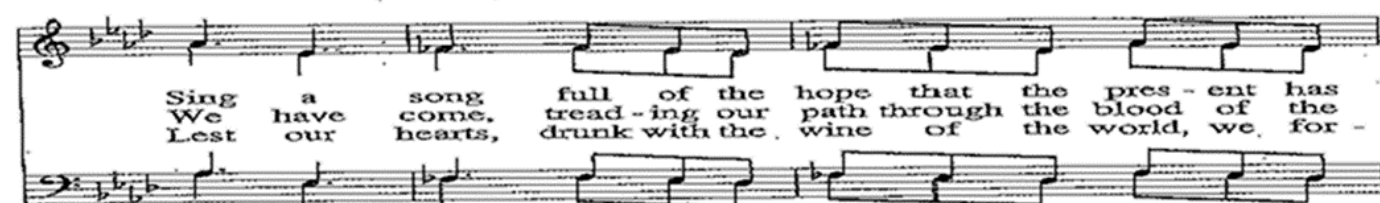
ty; Let our re - joic - ing rise High as the lis - t'ning  
died; Yet with a stead - y beat, Have not our wea - ry  
way; Thou who hast by Thy might, Led us in - to the



skies, Let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.  
feet, Come to the place for which our peo - ple sighed?  
light, Keep us for ev - er in the path, we pray.



Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,  
We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;  
Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met Thee,



Sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has  
We have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the  
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we for -



brought us; Fac - ing the ris - ing sun Of our new  
slaugh - tered; Out from the gloom - y past, Till now we  
get Thee; Shad - owed be - neath Thy hand, May we for



day - be - gun, Let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.  
stand at last Where the bright gleam of our bright star is cast.  
ev - er stand, True to our God, true to our na - tive land.



## ONE LOVE

One love, one heart Let's join together and a-feel alright  
One love (oh Lord of mercy) One heart (I tell you)  
Let's join together (at this house I pray)  
And a-feel alright (and I will feel alright)  
Let's join together and a-feel alright

Now, let them all pass all their dirty remarks (one love)  
There is one question I'd really like to ask (one soul)  
Is there a place for the hopeless sinner  
Who has hurt all mankind just to save his own?

One love, one heart Let's join together and a-feel alright  
One love (hear my plea) One heart  
Let's join together and a-feel alright  
Let's join together (let's just trust in the Lord)  
And a-feel alright (and I will feel alright)

Let's join together to fight this holy battle  
So when the man comes there will be no, no doom  
Have pity on those whose chances grows thinner  
There ain't no hiding place among the kingdoms of love, yes

One love (hear my plea) One heart (oh)  
Let's join together and a-feel alright  
One love (oh Lord of mercy) One heart (I tell you)  
Let's join together (let this house a-pray)  
And a-feel alright (and I will feel alright)  
Let's join together and a-feel alright

One love, one heart Let's join together and a-feel alright  
One love (oh Lord) One heart (oh Lord)  
Let's join together and a-feel alright  
Let's join together (let's all pray to the Lord)  
And a-feel alright (and I will feel alright)

I tell you, let them all pass all their dirty remarks (one love)  
There is one question I'd really like to ask (one soul)  
Is there a place for the hopeless sinner  
Who has hurt all mankind just to save his own?

One love (oh Lord of mercy) One heart (I tell you)  
Let's join together (at this house I pray)  
And a-feel alright (and I will feel alright)

One love (hear my plea) One heart (hear my plea)  
Let's join together and a-feel alright (and I will feel alright)  
Let's join together (let us pray to the Lord)  
And a-feel alright (and I will feel alright)

Song by Bob Marley • 1965

# God Be with You

81

Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1880; alt.



1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; By good coun-sel guide, up - hold you,  
 2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; Wings of shel-ter safe - ly hide you,  
 3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; When life's per - ils thick con-found you,  
 4 God be with you till we meet a - gain; Keep love's ban-ner float-ing o'er you,



With a shep-herd's care en - fold you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.  
 Dai - ly man - na still pro - vide you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.  
 Put un - fail - ing arms a - round you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.  
 Smite death's threat-ening wave be - fore you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.

*Refrain*



Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Je - sus' feet;  
 till we meet, till we meet a - gain, till we meet,



till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet a - gain.  
 till we meet, till we meet a - gain,

## 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](mailto:zaida@unionucc.net).

## 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](mailto:zaida@unionucc.net).



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

Ministers of the Church

Pastor

Guest Musician

Email Address:

Office - Zaida Pacheco

Union Congregational Church, UCC:

Florida Conference, UCC

National UCC:

All of Us

Rev. Dr. Sheila Harvey

James Graham

Pastor Sheila [sheila@unionucc.net](mailto:sheila@unionucc.net)

[zaida@unionucc.net](mailto:zaida@unionucc.net) / [office@unionucc.net](mailto:office@unionucc.net)

[unionucc.net](http://unionucc.net)

[www.uccfla.org](http://www.uccfla.org)

[www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org)

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

Go to [www.unionucc.net](http://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 22, 2025 Juneteenth Celebration**

**10:00 AM Worship – Facebook Live Streaming**

**11:15 AM Fellowship – Juneteenth Celebrations! All are welcome!**

**Tuesday - Friday – The Sanctuary is Available for Prayer!**

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

**Sunday, June 29, 2025**

**10:00 AM Worship – Facebook Live Streaming**

**11:15 AM Fellowship - All are welcome!**

**11:30 AM Handbell Rehearsal (20 minutes)**

**12:00 PM Justice & Peace Meeting**



*Thank you to  
everyone who  
helped make VBS a  
great success!*

INTO THE  
**DEEP**  
LUKE 5:4



## SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 22, 2025

1 Kings 19:1-4, (5-7), 8-15a

### In God's Presence

I remember one sweltering June day, where the heat was making my Manhattan studio even more stifling, my parents called inviting me to come with them across the river to New Jersey for a hike in the woods. With sweat trickling down my neck, I eagerly accepted.

Their car arrived and I jumped into the backseat enjoying the air conditioning that was blasting. I closed my eyes as tires jostling over potholes gave way to smooth roads and city crescendos turned into country lullabies. We finally arrived at our favorite trail dotted with evergreens and gurgling streams. Into the woods we went, deeper and deeper until we spotted a large rock to rest upon and enjoy a cool drink.

As I sat still, I thought how amazing it was that such a simple gift as a stone seat from God was enough to renew me. I then listened to the silence all around. It was beautiful. There were no irate taxi drivers shouting at jaywalkers. There was no mass of people jostling me about on crowded concrete sidewalks. There were no street vendors filling the air with cries of great deals.

As I listened to the silence of the woods, I noticed, too, that my body was relaxing as well. I had never realized till then what the constant assault on my senses was doing to me not just emotionally and spiritually, but also physically.

It was then I recaptured a childhood lesson received in the woods so many years ago: That the God moments are all around, you just need to still your racing mind and slow your busy steps to notice them.

I wonder if Elijah, a prophet on the run and fearing for his life, felt that stress melting away when he sheltered in a cave. He too allowed the external stresses to cloud the internal truth that God's presence was always with him — but not in the ways Elijah expected.

Hungering for that blessed assurance of God with him, Elijah quickly stood on the mountain as told, hoping to experience God. A great wind blew. But no God. Then an earthquake shook all around. No God. Then flames of a fire licked and whipped before him. Again, no God. Finally, sheer silence enveloped Elijah. And in that silence was God.

I sat on the rock in the silence knowing that my noisy whirlwind of a life was not feeding my soul. I knew I had to let go of not only the busyness but also of my assumptions and expectations as to who God was and where God was to be found.

What is the rock you sit upon this day? How are you being invited to let go of your God assumptions and expectations and trust the silences in your life? For it is there, God is found.

*Ever-present God, help us to sit comfortably in the silences of life for it is there we will finally hear your beautiful whispers of life spoken to us. 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.)