



May 16th, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

7th Sunday of Easter
Ascension Sunday

Union Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

*An Open and Affirming, Earthwise,
Progressive Christian Congregation*

Elk River, Minnesota 763-441-1203

www.elkriverucc.org / churchoffice@elkriverucc.org

Welcome!

Union Congregational Church, United Church of Christ welcomes everyone, no matter who you are or where you are on your faith journey.

During this time of social distancing due to the COVID-19 virus, we are conducting worship via Facebook Live broadcasts. You can watch it live, or at any time after the service.

Please contact the church at any time if you need to reach out. We are here – just a safe distance away.

We will continue to assess the situation and listen to the advice from the Minnesota Department of Health and the Minnesota UCC Conference office in making decisions on how to move forward. Please pay attention to your email for further updates.

Grace and Peace to all.



VISION

God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

(Micah 6:8, (NIV))

Union Congregational Church, United Church of Christ Mission Statement



God calls us to minister to each other. This ministry goes beyond our congregation into the community, wider world, and to the earth itself. We seek to reach those in the margins of society, to empower the powerless, and to leave this earth a better place than when we each arrived.

PRELUDE

WORDS OF CENTERING

"Trees are sanctuaries. Whoever knows how to speak to them, whoever knows how to listen to them, can learn the truth."

- Herman Hesse

LIGHTING THE CANDLES and WELCOME

We invite you to click a Reaction button on Facebook to let us know you are with us.

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP 236 Halleluja

Halleluja 236

Traditional

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le - lu-ja, hal - le - lu - ja.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Jeremiah 17: 7-8

(PLEASE JOIN IN CALL AND RESPONSE)

One: Blessed are we when we trust in God.

Many: When we trust in God, we are like trees planted by water.

One: The trees send out roots by the stream.

Many: They do not fear when heat comes, and their leaves remain green.

One: They do not fear the drought for they will bear fruit.

Many: Like trees, may our spiritual roots grow near the stream of Life, drawing living water so we too may thrive and bear fruit. Thanks be to God.

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Like a Tree beside the Waters


Jer. 17:7-8

Unison


James F. D. Martin, 1992




1 Like a tree be-side the wa-ters, nur-tured by your lov-ing care,
2 Like a tree be-side the riv-er, draw-ing life from ho-ly streams,
3 We, be-side the liv-ing wa-ters, drink from your e-ter-nal life.



We, O God, your sons and daugh-ters, your en-dur-ing wit-ness bear.
Fill us with your love for-ev-er; re-cre-ate our hopes and dreams.
Give to all, your sons and daugh-ters, faith that ris-es o-ver strife.



In each pass-ing gen-er-a-tion may your voice of love be heard.
Through the storms of life sus-tain us by the wis-dom of your grace.
O Liv-ing God, most glo-rious, strength-en us for life to-day.



Bless, we pray, this con-gre-ga-tion with your ho-ly, liv-ing Word.
May the chang-ing of the sea-sons find us in your warm em-brace.
By the hope of time-less prom-ise guide your church up-on the Way.

LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE & PEACE PRAYER

*GREETING OF PEACE

In the same spirit in which we receive the unconditional love of God in Jesus Christ, let us offer to one another our own sign of peace.

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

Many: And also with you.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Handbell Choir

TIME WITH CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 1

1 Happiness comes to those who reject the path of violence, who refuse to associate with criminals or even to sit with people who belittle others. 2 Happiness comes to those who delight in the Law of YHWH and meditate on it day and night. 3 They're like trees planted by flowing water— they bear fruit in every season, and their leaves never wither: everything they do will prosper. 4 But not wrongdoers! They're like chaff that the wind blows away. 5 They won't have a taproot to anchor them when judgment comes, nor will corrupt individuals be given a place at the Gathering of the Just. 6 YHWH watches over the steps of those who do justice; but those on a path of violence and injustice will find themselves irretrievably lost.

REFLECTION

Be Like a Tree

For the Fruit of All Creation

425

Fred Pratt Green, 1970


1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.

For God's gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God.
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.

For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,

Fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
 In the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
 Most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

OUR TIME OF SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS, ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

THE PRAYER THAT JESUS TAUGHT (let us pray together)

Our Creator in Heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO GIVE/RECEIVING OUR GIFTS

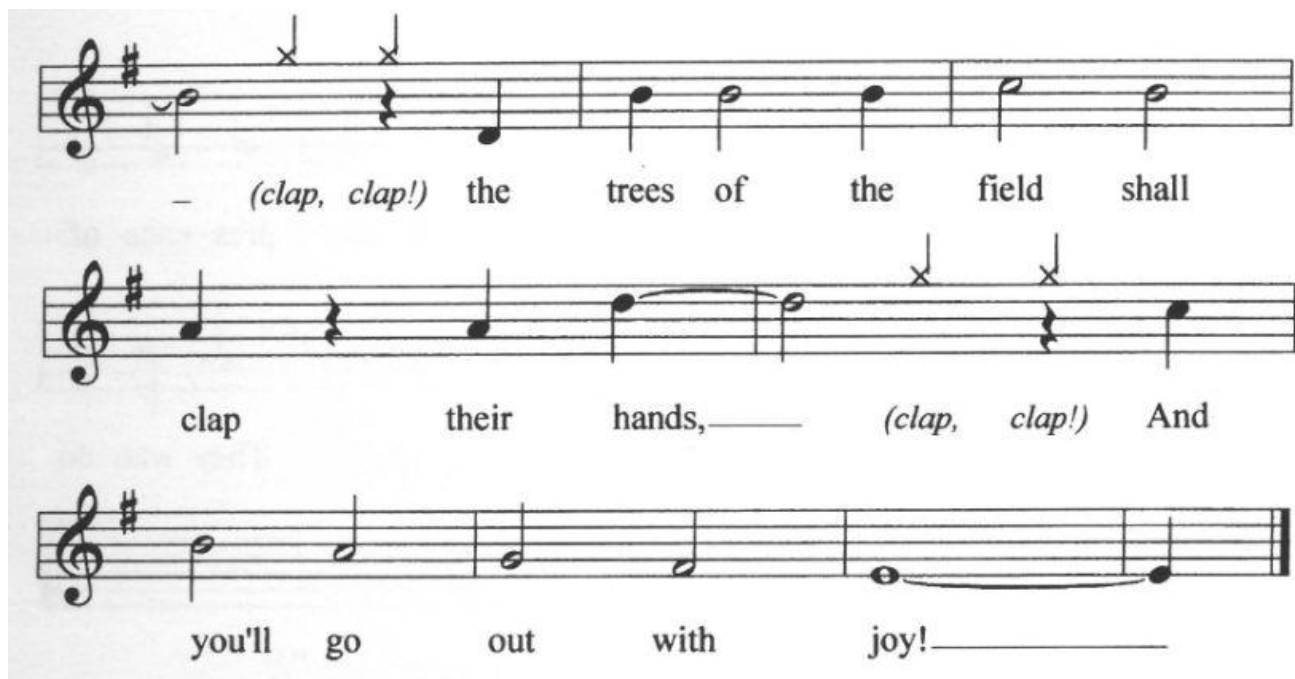
PRAYER OF DEDICATION (let us pray together)

Creator God, as a small seed grows into a mighty oak, a gorgeous maple, an evergreen red pine, or a bountiful apple tree, so let our gifts – small and large – be gathered together that they might become something so much more: an orchard, a planting along a boulevard, a single shade tree, or an entire forest in praise of you. Amen.

166 THE TREES OF THE FIELD

The musical score is written on nine staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below the notes. The lyrics are: "You shall go out with joy—and be led forth with peace,— And the moun-tains and the hills shall break forth be-fore you. There'll be shouts of joy—and all the trees of the field shall clap, shall clap their hands. And all the trees of the field shall clap their hands,— (clap, clap!) the trees of the field shall clap their hands,—". The score includes various musical notations such as treble clefs, key signatures, time signatures, notes, rests, and dynamic markings like "clap, clap!".

You shall go out with joy—and be led
forth with peace,— And the moun-tains and the
hills shall break forth be-fore you. There'll be
shouts of joy—and all the trees of the
field shall clap, shall clap their
hands. And all the trees of the
field shall clap their hands,— (clap, clap!) the
trees of the field shall clap their hands,—



BENEDICTION

One: Go in peace, my friends. Celebrate the wonders of creation and know that in all the seasons of our lives God is with us.

Many: May we listen to the songs of the spring birds, and the hymns of the trees. May we touch the earth with love and respect.

One: May God bless us and hold us gently as we seek to do God's work in this world. Our service has ended, our service begins. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Elk River Union Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

Pastor: Rev. Robin Raudabaugh

Director of Faith Formation:

Gigi Nauer

Office Administrator:

Rylie Anderson

Piano & Organ: Carson Schneider

Handbell and Chorister Director:

Gigi Nauer

Choir Director: Sam Eckberg

Liturgist: Su Arnold

Cantor: Gigi Nauer & Handbell choir

Announcements

Office Hours

Office hours for the church this week are Monday through Wednesday, 9:00am to 1:00pm. Rev. Robin is available by appointment or can always be contacted during the day, evenings & weekends via phone or text at 651.216.9012 or email revrobin@elkriverucc.org. Call the church at (763) 441-1203 to talk with Rylie about access to the building or answering general questions. You can always email the church office at churchoffice@elkriverucc.org.

Pastoral Emergencies

In the event of an emergency, an accident, or a death, please call the church office or contact Rev. Robin Raudabaugh directly via phone or text at 651.216.9012 or revrobin@elkriverucc.org.

Church Materials

Copies of the Sunday sermon are available via Facebook, our website, and UCC Squared Newsletter (email).

KEPT IN OUR PRAYERS

Please keep in your prayers our congregation members: Ella Rivers, Donna Church, Musz Bailey, Jim Babcock, Shelley Sherper, Bobbie Berg, Susan Olsen, Jackie Schuelein, Carol Lloyd, Dave Leland, Joanne Burdick, Ruby Cawthra, Jane Houlton, baby James Bowman, Marion Marcott, Cheryl Wold, Judy Halgren, Amy Britt, Bailey Rosdahl, Jimmy Stevens, Dee & Jim Stevens (Jimmy's parents), Dave Foley, John Olson, Nicole [Kilber] Teske, Linda Fenton, Dave Halgren, Diane Narr, Joan Axen and Nancy Andersen

SCHEDULE FOR THE COMING WEEKS

Sunday, May 16th, 2021

**10:00 a.m. Worship Service via
Facebook Live**

Liturgist: Su Arnold

11:00 a.m. Virtual Coffee Hour

**1:00p.m. Pastor in the Parking Lot
(Weather Permitting)**

3:30 p.m. Outside Group (4-H Club)

Tuesday, May 18th, 2021

6:30 p.m. Bible Study (virtual)

**6:30 p.m. Outside Group (Female
Scouts)**

Wednesday, May 19th, 2021

**3:45 SARI Demonstration Sherburne
County Gov't center**

6:30 p.m. Confirmation

Thursday, May 20th, 2021

6:00 p.m. Outside Group (Girl Scouts)

6:30 p.m. Diaconate Meeting

Friday, May 21st, 2021

4:00 p.m. Outside Group (4-H Club)

6:00 p.m. Outside Group (Girl Scouts)

Sunday, May 23rd, 2021

**10:00 a.m. Worship Service in Person
(see sign up) & Live Via Facebook**

Liturgist: Marylyn Bowman

11:00 a.m. Virtual Coffee Hour

Tuesday, May 25th, 2021

6:30 p.m. Bible Study (virtual)

**6:30 p.m. Outside Group (Female
Scouts)**

Wednesday, May 26th, 2021

**3:45 SARI Demonstration Sherburne
County Gov't center**

5:00 p.m. Staff Meeting

6:30 p.m. Confirmation

Thursday, May 27th, 2021

6:00 p.m. Outside Group (Girl Scouts)

6:30 p.m. Pastoral Relations