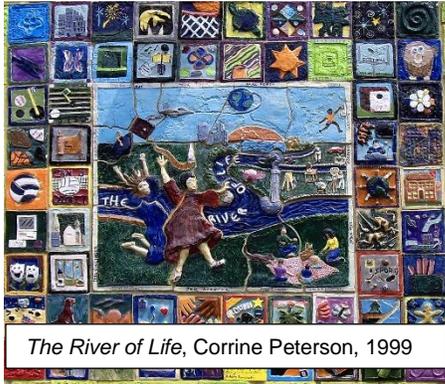


Hope United Church of Christ Moline, Illinois  
 Worship Bulletin May 17, 2020  
 6th Sunday of Easter

*Thank you for joining us for worship today. We are glad you are here!  
 No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,  
 you are welcome at Hope UCC!*



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We long for community and the Presence of God.

**People: In whom we live and move and have our being.**

Leader: This day Christ tells us that we will never be alone. An Advocate—spirit of Truth-- will share our journey.

**People: With whom we will live and create community and celebrate being.**

Leader: May the love of God be with you.

**People: And the joy of Christ surround you.**

Leader: May we know the presence of the Advocate as we gather in this community of peace, May your Truth lead us to the path of discipleship with deeds of bold mercy and courageous justice.

**People: As an Easter People following a Risen Lord, may the life of Jesus live on in us and through us. Amen.**

OPENING HYMN *Help Us Accept Each Other*

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WELCOMING GOD INTO OUR MIDST/LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

Ever-Present One, we have come here today for many reasons, each with our own story. May these reasons and stories be immersed in your Sacred Story, finding ourselves caught up in the drama and beauty of Jesus' teachings, life, and ministry. Enable us to move boldly into the future and to fulfill the hope of love that Jesus taught, even as we pray the prayer he taught us saying,

**Our Father, who is 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy Advocate, It seems, at times, we forget that you know us at our very depth. We become anxious and afraid that you are not with us, in these days of isolation and worry. Yet even now you call us to the work of imagination, generosity and patience, which are possible when we remember whose we are. By your mercy, help us to live out the commandments of Christ within these walls, beyond this hour. May we become for the world, the very presence of justice, hope and peace. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

All of us have been created and called to be in community which today takes many forms! Know this, but more importantly, live this: As God's children we are loved and equipped for great ministry.

Follow Jesus' commandment to love boldly, even in solitude, as you are held in the grace and love of God.

### PASSING OF THE PEACE

Let us offer one another the gift of peace. May the Lord's peace be with you!

*(If you are using this liturgy as a private devotion or participating in the live stream worship, please hold out your hands in blessing for all you are joined with in spirit. If you are participating in the live stream worship, please type in your peace greeting.)*

### PASTORAL PRAYER

Leader: May the Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray...

### PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

#### OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Psalm 66:8-20

Bless our God, O peoples,  
 let the sound of his praise be heard,  
 who has kept us among the living,  
 and has not let our feet slip.  
 For you, O God, have tested us;  
 you have tried us as silver is tried.  
 You brought us into the net;  
 you laid burdens on our backs;  
 you let people ride over our heads;  
 we went through fire and through water;  
 yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.  
 I will come into your house with burnt offerings;  
 I will pay you my vows,  
 those that my lips uttered  
 and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.  
 I will offer to you burnt offerings of fatlings,  
 with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams;  
 I will make an offering of bulls and goats. Selah  
 Come and hear, all you who fear God,  
 and I will tell what he has done for me.  
 I cried aloud to him,  
 and he was extolled with my tongue.  
 If I had cherished iniquity in my heart,  
 the Lord would not have listened.  
 But truly God has listened;  
 he has given heed to the words of my prayer.  
 Blessed be God,  
 because he has not rejected my prayer  
 or removed his steadfast love from me.

## NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Acts 17:22-31

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.' Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

## SERMON

## OFFERTORY

Today we call upon you as Children of God to share in the love and work of Jesus. We, as the gathered Church, the Body of Christ, continue in our day to witness and work on behalf of our Lord, returning our gifts, tithes and offerings.

*We are profoundly grateful for your continued support of Hope UCC as we stay connected as a faith community in this time of social distancing and spiritual connection. We are continuing the ministry of our church throughout this stay at home order and we thank you for making this possible. We now have two ways to make your offering. Hope UCC is now able to offer e-giving through Breeze Management System to make it safer and easier for you to give anytime. You are able to safely donate electronically using your credit card or ACH transfer. You can find the link on our church website ([www.hopeuccqc.org](http://www.hopeuccqc.org)). We also invite you to mail your offering to the church office – mail and messages are checked daily by Pastor Santina. Thank you for your generosity- your commitment is vital to continuing our congregation's ministries and commitments. Hope Grows! And there is nothing- not even a global pandemic - that can stop it! 😊*

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

May these gifts, O God, become action and intention, fulfilling Christ's commandment to love. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN *They'll Know We Are Christians*

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## BENEDICTION

Now leave this time of worship, refreshed and hopeful; let love be true and freely given. And may you be encouraged and blessed by the Advocate whose love warms and surrounds you like the sun, believing that God is with us always, as close as our beating hearts. Amen.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Special Announcement of Congregational Vote: Hope UCC Will Take Our Open and Affirming (ONA) Vote by Mail Beginning May 18 ☺**

For the past two years, Hope UCC has had programs, meetings, discussions, and forums preparing us to become an official Open and Affirming (ONA) congregation of the United Church of Christ. Our congregational vote to affirm our ONA covenant was scheduled for April 26. Unfortunately, we were not able to meet in person for that vote and it will be many weeks until we are able to do so. Even then, we still may not all be in worship together due to the need to continue physical distancing by some of our members. Consequently, on April 23, our Church Council approved a motion to hold our vote to affirm our ONA covenant by a mail-in ballot. Hope UCC's Constitution, while not specifically mentioning a "vote by mail" process, does not exclude the ability to conduct business in this manner, especially under such historically unprecedented and extreme circumstances as the current "quarantine in place" due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Because of the importance of this issue, as well as the uncertainty as to when regular church services will resume, Hope's Church Council felt it was important to conduct this important business by a mail-in ballot.

The Open and Affirming Covenant, as presented at the 2020 Annual Meeting, is as follows:

***Hope United Church of Christ invites and welcomes into our faith community persons of every ability, age, race, nationality, economic and social status, faith background, marital standing and family structure, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression. We commit ourselves to the ongoing work of being an ONA (Open and Affirming) congregation, one that lives out the belief that God is still speaking. With God's grace, we journey together in Christian faith.***

This week you will receive your ballot with a self-addressed stamped envelope. On this ballot you have three choices:

Yes– affirming our Open and Affirming covenant leading us to become an Open and Affirming congregation.

No- opposing the affirmation of our Open and Affirming covenant and opposing becoming an Open and Affirming congregation.

Abstain- you do not wish to vote in favor or against this issue.

Please tear off the attached ballot, vote, and return it in the enclosed self-addressed, stamped return envelope. Please return all ballots to Hope UCC's office no later than May 30<sup>th</sup>.

As outlined by Hope UCC's Constitution, a quorum must equal fifty percent(50%) plus one individual of the average attendance for two (2) months prior to a congregational vote. In this case that average will be calculated from the attendance of January and February, since March 7<sup>th</sup> was the last Sunday when regular worship services were held at Hope UCC. Therefore, in order to properly conduct this business by mail at least a quorum of ballots must be returned to the church office no later than May 30<sup>th</sup>. We are grateful for your cooperation in ensuring this quorum is met.

Your ONA Committee: Jan Birdsell, Walt Lysell, Bob Tallitsch, Sue Grchan, Becky Newton, Kathy Hobson, and Caridad Ramos

CHRISTIAN UNITY

333

## Help Us Accept Each Other

D G D A D Em7 D A D A  
 1 Help us ac - cept each oth - er as Christ ac - cept - ed us; teach  
 2 Teach us, O Lord, your les - sons, as in our dai - ly life we  
 3 Let your ac - cept - ance change us, so that we may be moved in  
 4 Lord, for to - day's en - coun - ters with all who are in need, who

D F#7 G A G A D E7 A  
 us as sis - ter, broth - er each per - son to em - brace. Be  
 strug - gle to be hu - man and search for hope and faith. Teach  
 liv - ing sit - u - a - tions to do the truth in love; to  
 hun - ger for ac - cept - ance, for right - eous - ness and bread, we

D A D G D Bm F#7 Bm B Em A  
 pres - ent, Lord, a - mong us and bring us to be - lieve we  
 us to care for peo - ple, for all— not just for some, to  
 prac - tice your ac - cept - ance un - til we know by heart the  
 need new eyes for see - ing, new hands for hold - ing on: re -

D G D Gmaj7 Em G Em7 A D  
 are our - selves ac - cept - ed and meant to love and live.  
 love them as we find them and as they may be - come.  
 ta - ble of for - give - ness and laugh - ter's heal - ing art.  
 new us with your Spir - it; Lord, free us, make us one!

## They'll Know We Are Christians



1. We are one in the Spir - it, we are  
 2. We will walk with each oth - er, we will  
 3. We will work with each oth - er, we will  
 4. All praise to the Fa - ther, from



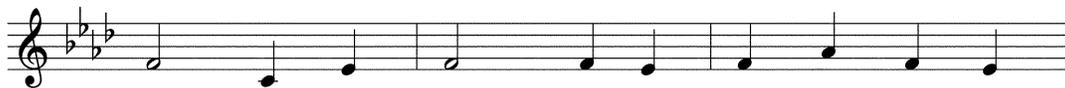
one in the Lord, We are one in the  
 walk hand in hand, We will walk with each  
 work side by side, We will work with each  
 whom all things come, And all praise to Christ



Spir - it, we are one in the Lord, And we  
 oth - er, we will walk hand in hand, And to -  
 oth - er, we will work side by side, And we'll  
 Je - sus, his on - ly Son, And all



pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re -  
 geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our  
 guard hu - man's dig - ni - ty and save hu - man's  
 praise to the Spir - it, who makes us



stored:  
 land: And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our  
 pride:  
 one:



love, by our love, Yes, they'll know we are



Chris - tians by our love.