



Hope UCC Weekly Update: December 4, 2022

There is always something happening at Hope UCC, so we thought we would add a weekly announcement feature to the bulletin that is mailed and emailed out to everyone. This Weekly Update will provide you with announcements, information, and updates on all that is going on in our community – at church and beyond.

Advent Angel Tree at Hope UCC



This year Hope UCC's Mission and Outreach Ministry has partnered with Rock Island Academy to bring Christmas hope, love, peace, and joy to their teachers and students by filling the teacher classroom wish lists. We will also have the most needed items for World Relief on the Angel Tree as they continue to welcome newly arrived immigrants and refugees to the Quad Cities. The Angel Tree is located in Fellowship Hall. Please take a tag and attach it to the gift when you return it to church.

Presents do not have to be wrapped, but please remember to attach that tag. If you would like to make a monetary donation to the Angel Tree, be assured it will be used to purchase items on the tree. If you make a monetary donation, please write "Angel Tree" on the envelope or memo line of the check. Gifts should be returned to Hope UCC by January 1. Thank you for supporting this special outreach ministry.

**QUAD CITIES
FLUTES UNLIMITED
HOLIDAY CONCERT**
DECEMBER 5, 2022 AT 7:00 P.M.
HOPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Come enjoy the wonderful songs of the holiday season at this free concert.
3324 41st Street in Moline
www.hopeuccqc.org

Blue Christmas
A service of remembrance and hope
Hope UCC
Sunday, December 18, 2022
1:30 P.M.

A quiet, reflective service for those feeling grief, sadness, loss, or pain, or who are simply seeking a time of stillness in this Advent season.

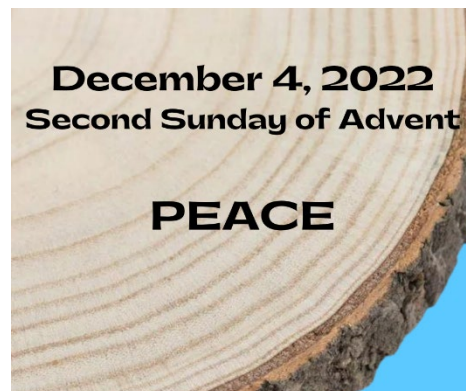
Blessing Box Donations

Thank you for your ongoing support with donations. Please keep it coming. This week's needs include: dry soups, dry potato mix, peanut butter, canned chili, canned stew, bar soap, & dental floss. Diapers size 4,5,6 are welcome, too.



Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL
Worship Bulletin December 4, 2022
Second Sunday of Advent
PEACE

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!



***Those who are able, please stand**

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

One: Over a hundred people, from the ages of two to eighty years old, were asked the question, "What are you afraid of?" From the voices of different generations, hear their answers:

One: Not being enough.

One: Falling down and hurting myself.

One: Not making a difference.

One: Climate change.

One: That we will forget we belong to one another.

One: Spiders.

One: Not having someone to care for me, listen to me, know my story.

One: A mental health crisis.

One: My loved ones getting sick or hurt badly.

One: Stopping short of following God all the way.

One: When you are afraid, what brings you peace?

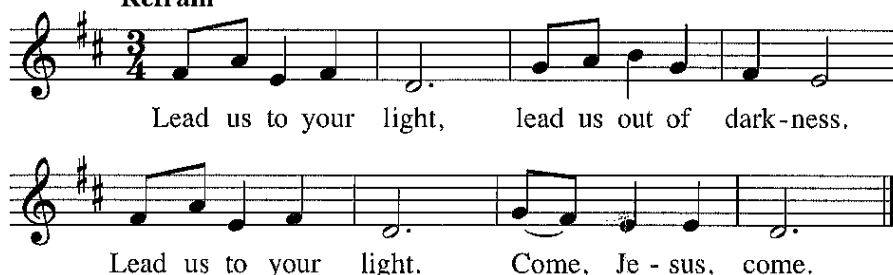
One: Today we light the candle of peace, because we so desperately need God's peace in the midst of all we fear.
(Second blue candle is lit)

Many: **May this light be a reminder that Christ is coming. God was with generations before, God is with us today, and God will be with us tomorrow. Even now, God is on the way. Amen.**

LEAD US TO YOUR LIGHT
Gathering Rite

1. Processional Song
Refrain

Carol Browning



SILENT REFLECTION

Where did you find peace this past week?

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: A shoot has come forth from the stump of Jesse.

Many: **The spirit of the Lord rests upon his shoulders.**

One: Wisdom guides his feet and righteousness is the belt around his waist.

Many: **Counsel and might cover his head.**

One: A shoot has come forth from the stump of Jesse.

Many: **God's promised salvation is at hand.**

*OPENING HYMN #122 *Come O Long Expected Jesus* (see end of bulletin)

*INVITING GOD INTO OUR MIDST

Holy God, whether it's through angels or music, friendships or sermons, study or nature— when you speak, we long to hear it. In a world as chaotic and broken as ours, we could use your words of hope and healing. We gather with hearts and minds ready to receive your word. With gratitude we praise your name. Amen.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Patient God, you know just how often we make decisions from a place of fear rather than love.

You know just how often we allow fear to take the place of logic, fanning unhealthy fires in our lives. You know just how often we tuck your words, "Do not be afraid," away on dusty shelves and in the back of closets, stubbornly holding onto our own point of view. Forgive us for giving fear the microphone. Silence the voices of scarcity, shame, and rejection, which spark and feed so much of our fear, so that we will allow you to re-center us in love and in your peace. With hope we pray, amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND PASSING OF PEACE

We are created in the image of God and are blessed with the capacity to reflect God's will in our daily lives. God cares for us and invests us with responsibility. Thus, God honors us with high expectations and confidence in our willingness to seek out life's best for all people. We are loved. We are forgiven. Our baptism is renewed.

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/LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

One: May the Lord be with you.

Many: **And also, with you.**

One: Let us pray:

With the assurance Jesus offers, together we pray the words Jesus taught us:

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.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. 2 The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. 3 His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, 4 but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

"Adapted from prayers by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org."

5 Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins. 6 The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. 7 The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. 8 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. 9 They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. 10 On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

*GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 1:26 – 38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth,²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David.³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren.³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God."³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

SERMON "How Peace Grows and Flourishes"

SERMON HYMN #109 *With Joy Draw Water* (see end of bulletin)

INVITATION TO OFFERING

As we join our voices in prayer and praise, so, too, we bring together the symbols of our life investment: money we have earned, the hours we have before us, the abilities that are ours alone. Let us give ourselves with joy.

Hope UCC thanks you for the gifts you share with this congregation. Your offering enables us to live into our mission. Offering plates are located near the Sanctuary doors.

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

What a joy to give! What a delight to join our efforts to your purposes, amazing God! You inspire us to oppose wickedness, to stand up for the oppressed, to work for harmony among all your children. Lead us, together, to your holy mountain, where all are valued and no one is excluded. May our offerings spread the knowledge of your ways across this earth, widening the circle of inclusion to embrace all your children, in Jesus' name. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

WELCOME

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

One: Holy God...

Many: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of Power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

REMEMBER

CONSECRATION

BREAKING BREAD AND POURING THE CUP

SHARING HOLY COMMUNION

The sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated through an open table at Hope UCC. All are invited to share this holy meal.

Gluten free wafers are available next to communion trays.

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our savior. Amen

BENEDICTION

One: The God of steadfastness sends you into the world. The God of encouragement bids you to live in harmony.

Many: In our daily living, we will rejoice in God's presence. We are thankful that God helps us to understand.

One: Live each day with peace, welcoming one another. Rejoice that Christ welcomes you and claims you.

Many: Praise God, whose Holy Spirit empowers us. Praise God, who offers us joy and peace.

One: Join with God in seeking justice for all. Lend your resources to help the poor and needy.

Many: May righteousness flourish and peace abound. May God's glory fill the earth, through us. Amen

CLOSING INVITATION

How will you grow peace this week?

POSTLUDE

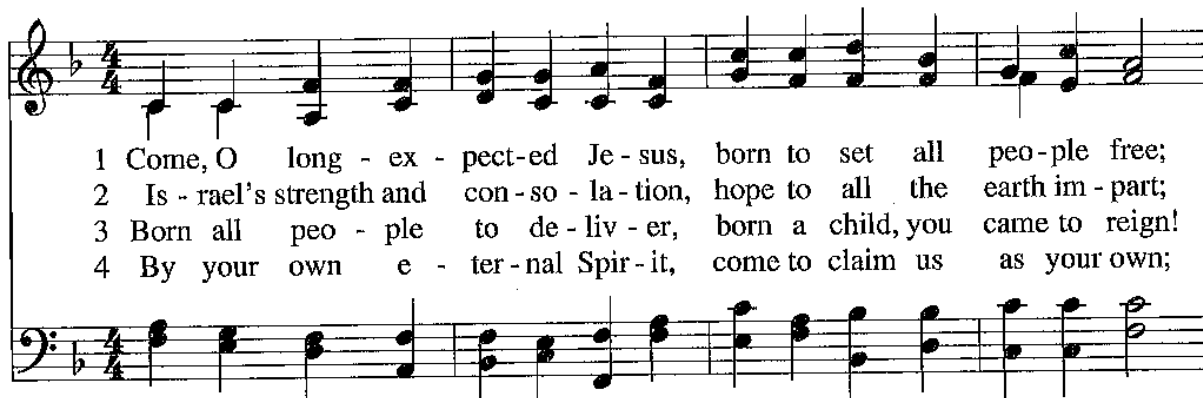
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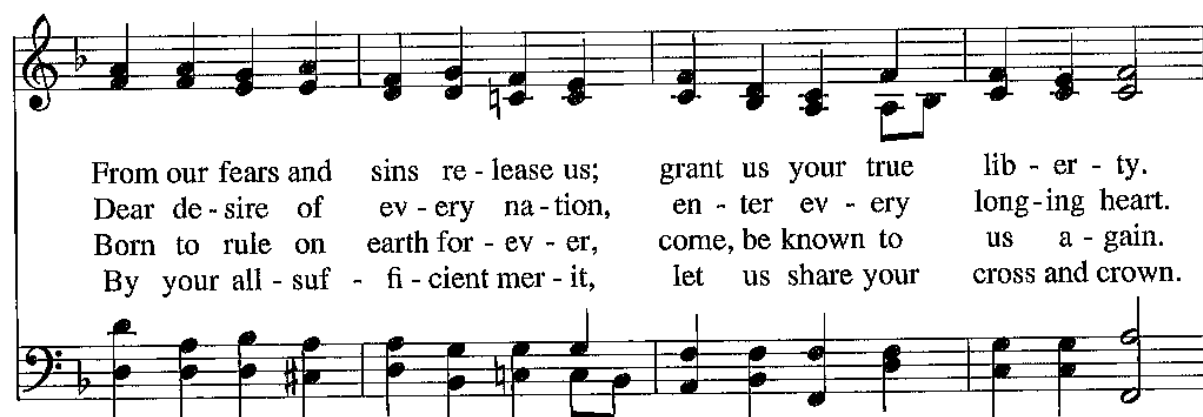
Come, O Long-Expected Jesus

122

Charles Wesley, 1744; alt.



1 Come, O long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set all peo-ple free;
 2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope to all the earth im - part;
 3 Born all peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, you came to reign!
 4 By your own e - ter - nal Spir - it, come to claim us as your own;



From our fears and sins re - lease us; grant us your true lib - er - ty.
 Dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, en - ter ev - ery long-ing heart.
 Born to rule on earth for - ev - er, come, be known to us a - gain.
 By your all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, let us share your cross and crown.

Charles Wesley, the brother of John, was one of the students known as "Methodists" at Oxford University. He wrote hymns for every occasion. This is from his small collection *Hymns for the Nativity*.

Tune: STUTTGART 8.7.8.7.
 Melody attrib. to Christian F. Witt (1660–1716)
 from *Psalmodia Sacra*, Gotha, 1715
 Alternate tune: IN BABILONE

With Joy Draw Water

109

Anne McKinstry, 1986, 1993

Isa. 11:1-10; 12:2-6

1 With joy draw wa - ter from the spring; sal - va - tion's liv - ing well.
 2 A shoot has sprung from Jes - se's tree; of God the cho - sen One.
 3 With love the poor will be re - ceived; the proud will turn a - side;
 4 The wolf shall lie down with the lamb; the calf and li - on play.
 5 With joy draw wa - ter from the spring; sal - va - tion's liv - ing well.

The Ho - ly One is in your midst; glad prais - es sing and tell!
 A branch of knowl - edge and of truth; a gift of love has come!
 And faith - ful - ness will be a path, and righ - teous - ness the guide!
 God's peace shall dwell with - in the land; a child shall show the way!
 The Ho - ly One is in your midst; glad prais - es sing and tell!

This text combines images from two Advent readings from the book of Isaiah, including the passage anticipating the reign of peace. The author, Anne McKinstry, has served as a writer-in-residence at Otis United Church of Christ in Massachusetts.

Tune: ST. COLUMBA altered to 8.6.8.6.
 Irish traditional melody
 Harm. Charles V. Stanford, 1906