

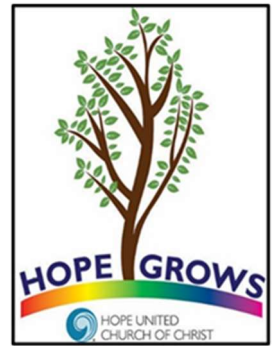
Jesus Multiplies the Loaves and Fish by Jesus Mafa

**Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL
Worship Bulletin August 2, 2020
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**

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!*



PRELUDE *Lyric Interlude* - Elliott

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come into the presence of God to be fed. Come to call on God, who is eager to answer.

Many: We gather to seek God's face. Let our eyes see all that is right and true.

One: Incline your ears to hear all God would teach. Seek to experience God's steadfast love.

Many: We are here to receive God's blessing. God is our refuge in a frightening world.

One: God is near to all who call and seek. Come to praise God and receive a blessing.

Many: Open all our senses to pay close attention, O God. We want to renew our covenant with the living God.

OPENING HYMN *I Sing the Mighty Power of God* Ellacombe

INVITING GOD INTO OUR MIDST

We are in awe before you, O God, for you have provided for us in rich abundance. The earth is full of your provisions. There is beauty all around us from the work of your hands. You have surrounded us with people who care about us with the love of Christ. Help us, O God, to count our blessings. Point us beyond our cries and complaints that we might realize our capacity to act in your name for the sake of others. As we wrestle with issues of faith and trust, help us to risk our false security for the venture of feeding others in the spirit of Christ. Amen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of justice and righteousness, whose compassion for humankind was expressed so vividly in Jesus of Nazareth, we bring to you our sorrow and anguish that we have not followed faithfully in the footsteps of Christ. Unkindness and deceit are all around us, and we have sometimes joined in their destructive ways. We waste resources you have entrusted to us. We cause others to stumble and fall. Take away our wickedness, O God, and restore your covenant among us, we pray in Jesus' name. 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.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Romans 9:1-5

¹I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit—²I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. ³For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people,[£] my kindred according to the flesh. ⁴They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; ⁵to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah,[£] who is over all, God blessed forever.[£] Amen.

Matthew 14:13-21

¹³Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." ¹⁶Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." ¹⁷They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." ¹⁸And he said, "Bring them here to me." ¹⁹Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

SERMON "Strength in Our Diversity"

INVITATION TO OFFERING

God has created a world of abundance for everyone. Yet many do not share in the bounty. Christ calls us to find sufficiency among us and to make sure that all are fed. We give as we have been blessed.

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). 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

Thank you, God, for all you have given to satisfy our needs. You quench our thirst and alleviate our hungers when we turn to you. You turn scarcity into plenty and give us the opportunity to help others. May our offerings proclaim your goodness and mercy. May they be devoted to extending the beloved community of your people. Keep our words and actions attuned to your will, that we may offer to all what they need from your hand. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(Please use whatever elements you have available for the bread and the cup)

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.

Holy God, we praise and bless you for creation and for your abiding love which brings us close to you, the source of all blessing. We thank you for creating us in your own image, for forgiving us when we act as though you have no claim on us, and for keeping us in your steadfast care. We rejoice in Jesus Christ, who shared the joys and sorrows of life as we know it. We remember Christ's death, we celebrate Christ's resurrection, and, as your church, we anticipate Christ's return. We take courage from your Holy Spirit and we offer you our praise for our sisters, brothers, and siblings of faith in every age who stand as witnesses to your love and justice. Together with all the company of heaven, we glorify you:

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

Remember

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

Consecration

Let us pray: Gracious God, by your Holy Spirit, bless these gifts of bread and cup – each unique in their composition and location, and yet common through the Spirit that anoints these gifts. Bless us as we receive the bread and cup, that we will offer you our faith and praise, and that we will be united with Christ and with one another. Through this table of fellowship, make us the Body of Christ and may your Spirit strengthen us when we feel weak, warm us when we are cold-hearted, bend us when we are stubborn, move us when we are uncaring, guide us in the way of love. May we continue to be faithful in all things. As we eat and drink, may the elements be symbols that remind us who we are and whose we are. We ask all this in the name of the one who extends the invitation to us, your Son, Christ Jesus. Amen

Through the broken bread we participate in the body of Christ.

Through the cup of blessing we participate in the new life Christ gives.

Invitation & Sharing Holy Communion

This is the table, not of the church, but of Jesus Christ. It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more. All are welcome. Come to the table because it is Jesus Christ who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here. Please join this feast in the spirit of joy and gratitude. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

Take and eat, Christ's body given for you.

Take and drink, the cup of blessing.

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

CLOSING HYMN *Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us* Bradbury

BENEDICTION

One: Go out to wrestle with God and the world this week. Know that God intends that you will feel blessed.

Many: We believe that God preserves our lives. All we have is a gift to us from our Creator.

One: God bids us welcome others into the faith community. Christ commands: Give them something to eat.

Many: As God has fed us, we want to share God's bounty. We want to pass on God's steadfast love.

One: Call on God in your times of need. Listen for the answers God supplies.

Many: God keeps covenant with us at all times. We will seek to keep our promises to God.

Amen

POSTLUDE *Orgelstück - Krecht*

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I Sing the Mighty Power of God

Ps. 136:5-9; James 1:17

" Isaac Watts, 1715; alt.

Descant

3 On earth there's not a plant or flower but makes your glo - ry known.

1 I sing the might - y power of God that made the moun - tains rise,
 2 I sing the good - ness of our God that filled the earth with food;
 3 On earth there's not a plant or flower but makes your glo - ry known.

The clouds a - rise and spread their showers by or - der from your throne.

That spread the flow - ing seas a - broad, and built the loft - y skies.
 God formed the crea - tures with a word, and then pro - nounced them good.
 The clouds a - rise and spread their showers by or - der from your throne.

All life is but a gift from you and ev - er in your care;

I sing the wis - dom that or - dained the sun to rule the day;
 Oh, how your won - ders are dis - played, wher - e'er I turn my eye;
 All life is but a gift from you and ev - er in your care;

The tune Ellacombe was named for a place in Devonshire, England. It was first published in a collection of tunes used in the private chapel of the Duke of Wirtemberg, and was possibly sung with the text "Ave Maria, klärer."

Tune: ELLACOMBE C.M.D.
 Gesangbuch der herzoglichen
 Wirtembergischen katholischen Hofkapelle, 1784
Descant, The New Century Hymnal, 1993

Wher - ev - er peo - ple gath - er, you, O God, are pres - ent there.

The moon shines full at God's com - mand, and all the stars o - bey.
If I sur - vey the ground I tread, or gaze up - on the sky!
Wher - ev - er peo - ple gath - er, you, O God, are pres - ent there.

The musical score consists of three staves. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The middle staff is a piano accompaniment with a key signature of two sharps. The bottom staff is a bass clef with a key signature of two sharps. The lyrics are written below the treble and piano staves.

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

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Attrib. to Dorothy A. Thrupp (1779–1847)

John 10:1–29

From *Hymns for the Young*, 1836; alt.

St. 1 transl. to Hawaiian by Laiana (1807–1886)

1 Sav-ior, like a shep-herd lead us, much we need your ten - der care;
 1 Ie - su no ke Ka - hu - hi - pa, Ka - hu - hi - pa ma'i-ka'i e,
 2 We are yours, in love be - friend us, be the guard-ian of our way;
 3 Let us al - ways seek your fa - vor; let us al - ways do your will;

in your pleas - ant pas-tures feed us, for our use your folds pre - pare.
 Ei - a ma - kou ka 'o - ha - na ke ho'o-lo - he a ha - hai:
 keep your flock, from sin de - fend us, seek us when we go a - stray.
 Je - sus Christ our on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.

Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us, yours we are;
 E a - lo - ha, e a - lo - ha, a - la - ka'i a ha - nai mai,
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear your chil - dren when we pray;
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still;

Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us, yours we are.
 E a - lo - ha, e a - lo - ha, a - la - ka'i a ha - nai mai.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear your chil - dren when we pray.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.

The theme of Christ as shepherd is familiar and beloved to Christians. Emma Lyons Doyle, granddaughter of Laiana (translator Lorenzo Lyons), once said, "If you want to know the full beauty of this hymn, hear it sung in Hawaiian."

Tune: BRADBURY 8.7.8.7.D.
 William B. Bradbury, 1859