

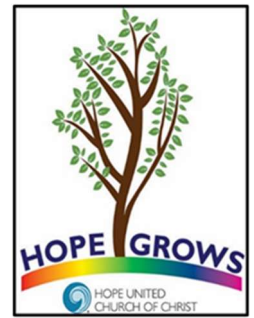


**Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL**  
**Worship Bulletin May 9, 2021**  
**Sixth Sunday of Easter**

*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!*



PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come all who are born of God; Abide in the love revealed in Jesus Christ.

**Many: We come in response to the one who calls us friends. We are here in obedience to Christ's command.**

One: Remember God's steadfast love and faithfulness. Let hands and voices echo God's praise.

**Many: Let our lips pour out a joyful noise. Let our hands reflect a serving Savior.**

One: Sing a new song to God who does marvelous things. Obey God's commandments which are not burdensome.

**Many: We clap our hands and sing for joy. We live by faith that conquers the world.**

INVITING GOD INTO OUR MIDST

**Come Holy Spirit, to lift us from empty routines to the surprising joy of your love. Loosen our tongues to praise you with sincere delight. Open our hearts to trust your leading through times of difficulty and days of despair. Calm our doubts and guide us through the mires of fear. You have called us together for mutual support in a time of worship that unites our spirits. We remember that we have been baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Teach us to follow where Christ leads. Amen.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Ever-present God, we confess to you our unloving thoughts and deeds. We love by standards that we bend and break in our own favor, while ignoring the commandments you have given. We find it hard to love everyone, for so many act in unloving ways. It is easier to treat people as things rather than listen for their needs. We withhold ourselves rather than offer our lives, even for our friends. We hoard the gifts you entrust to us instead of letting them bear fruit for you. Cleanse us from these destructive ways, freeing us to love as you have loved 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.)*

SPECIAL MUSIC *His Eye Is on the Sparrow* arr. Jack Schrader (piano and flute)

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 LESSONS

Acts 10:44-48

<sup>44</sup>While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. <sup>45</sup>The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, <sup>46</sup>for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, <sup>47</sup>"Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" <sup>48</sup>So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

John 15:9-17

<sup>9</sup>As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

<sup>12</sup>"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I do not call you servants<sup>£</sup> any longer, because the servant<sup>£</sup> does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

SERMON "Spirit Sightings"

SERMON HYMN #473 Blessed Assurance (see end of bulletin)

INVITATION TO OFFERING

We are people whom God has blessed with many gifts. God has done marvelous things for us. How will we, who have been baptized by water and the Spirit, respond to God's generosity?

*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

Generous and loving God, we dedicate to your service the work of our hands, the earnings of our time and efforts, and our vision for the future. May faith sustain us as we offer our best to you in praise and thanksgiving and joyous dedication. We seek to work for the reign of your truth and extension of the friendship granted to us in Jesus Christ. Let our offering bear fruit in the lives of all who are helped by it. Amen.

#### BENEDICTION

One: Friends of Christ, carry God's love into the world. You have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit.

**Many: May the Holy Spirit inspire our words. May God's love in Christ empower our deeds.**

One: God judges the world with righteousness. Our efforts are accepted with steadfast faithfulness.

**Many: We clap our hands with appreciation and joy. The law of love is reigning in our hearts.**

#### POSTLUDE

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#### **Hope UCC Weekly Update: May 9, 2021**

*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.*



#### **Coffee in the Park: May 16 at McCandless Park!**

Please join the Mission and Outreach Ministry for Coffee Hour at McCandless Park following worship on May 16. As you read in March's newsletter, Hope UCC has 'adopted' McCandless Park in order to help keep it clean and enjoyable for the community. M&O thought it would be a nice idea to meet there for Coffee Hour after church (we've all missed that time together!) and get to know the park and what how we might help with its care. Please bring a chair and your own beverages - maybe even your lunch! This beautiful park is located at 1st Street & 7th Avenue in Moline. Please contact any of the M&O Ministry with any questions: Barb Hawotte, Jenny Hookey, Donna Werner, Kathy Hobson, Charley Poor, Lisa & Brian Williams.

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## Blessed Assurance

*Acts 17:30-31; Rev. 7:9-14**Fanny Crosby, 1873; alt.*

1 Bless-ed as - sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! O what a  
 2 Per - fect sub - mis - sion, per - fect de - light! Vi - sions of  
 3 Per - fect sub - mis - sion, all is at rest, I in my

fore - taste of glo - ry di - vine! Heir of sal - va - tion, pur - chase of  
 rap - ture now burst on my sight; An - gels de - scend - ing, bring from a -  
 Sav - ior am hap - py and blessed; Watch - ing and wait - ing, look - ing a -

God, born of the Spir - it, washed in Christ's blood.  
 bove ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love.  
 bove, filled with God's good - ness, lost in Christ's love.

*Refrain*

This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long;

This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

*After hearing Phoebe Knapp play this tune on the piano, Fanny Crosby composed the poem on the spot. In her almost 95 years, Crosby wrote more than 8,500 gospel hymns and songs.*

Tune: ASSURANCE Irr.  
 Phoebe P. Knapp, 1873