



Hope UCC Weekly Update: January 17, 2020

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.

Remembering Lives Lost to Covid

On Tuesday, January 19 Hope UCC will participate in a national memorial to remember and honor lives lost to COVID-19. Weather permitting, we will place luminaries in our parking lot and join in the bell ringing taking place across the country at 4:30 p.m. (5:30 Eastern). Would you like to join us? You can light your homes with luminaries and light and/or you can come over to church and be together- safely spaced and masked or remain in your car.

Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting on January 17, 2021 at 11:15 will be a virtual event. Even though we are meeting using the Zoom platform, the participation of Hope UCC's members and friends is still critically important. You should have received this annual report in the mail or by email. We hope you will read through this information prior to the January 17th meeting so that when we meet, we are all prepared to discuss and vote on the proposed 2021 budget. All ways to participate in this meeting will be included in the annual report packet. We hope that you will join us for this meeting.



The First Two Disciples by Jesus Mafa

Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL
 Worship Bulletin January 17, 2021
 Second Sunday after Epiphany

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: God is calling. Do you not hear? You are being called by name, for a purpose.

Many: God, you have searched us and know us. You discern our thoughts from far away.

One: Do not confuse the siren calls of the world for God's call. Do not confuse the values of this world for God's values.

Many: You know, O God, when we sit and when we stand. You know when we lie down and where we go.

One: Your words and your deeds are known to God. You were known to God before you were born.

Many: Your knowledge of us is more than we can understand. Your thoughts embrace us amid all you have created.

INVITING GOD INTO OUR MIDST

We have come together, listening God, because you have spoken your word of summons and welcome. We are drawn irresistibly to the promise of your presence and by the persistence of your call. Speak to your servants here in ways we can understand. We want to hear the message you intend for us. We want to listen, not because someone else needs to have it told to them, but because we ourselves are needy sinners. Your expectations of us are high and holy. We tremble before you, eager for the heavens to be opened in our midst for our transformation. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, our lives are an open book to you. Help us to recognize in ourselves what you have seen there. Remove the distortions that keep us from acknowledging our sin. Awaken in us a sorrow over the wrong we have done and the good we have neglected. Create in us an earnest desire to change. O God, we are in touch with the pain we have caused and the pain within us. Because of your love and care, we can face and overcome the sins we here confess. 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.)

BELL ANTHEM *Come, Christians, Join to Sing* arr. by David Burroughs

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 LESSON

1 Samuel 3:1-10

¹Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!"[£] and he said, "Here I am!" ⁵and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. ⁶The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

John 1:43-51

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." ⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." ⁴⁷When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" ⁴⁸Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." ⁴⁹Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" ⁵⁰Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." ⁵¹And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you,[£] you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

SERMON “Invitation to Discernment”

SERMON HYMN #451 *Be Now My Vision* (see end of bulletin)

INVITATION TO OFFERING

We have been bought with a price. God has made a costly investment in humanity. For love’s sake, God sent Christ among us. For love’s sake, we make the offering of ourselves and our resources the high point of our worship.

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 Santana. 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

We have heard you calling us, loving God, in the cries of your children – cries for bread, for justice, for relief. WE have seen you beckoning to us amid the corporate greed and social distortions of our day. We have felt the pain of sisters and brothers caught up in damaging relationships that violate your holy temple within them. We want to help, and we believe your church can be Christ’s healing presence for them Show us the way to be messengers of your gentle judgment and powerful good news May our offerings be used for the transformation of church and society, individuals and groups. Amen.

BENEDICTION

One: Jesus said, “Follow me,” so Philip followed. Jesus says to us, “Follow me!” Will we follow?

Many: We do not always know where Jesus will lead. But we hear the call, and we intend to follow.

One: Philip found Nathaniel and led him to Jesus. There are many we know whom Jesus is seeking.

Many: It is often difficult to share our faith with friends. But we hear the call, and we intend to invite them.

One: Jesus promised, “You will see greater things than I have shown you.” We are Christ’s messengers of revelation today.

Many: Wonderful are the works of our God. Christ is our mentor, our Savior and friend.

POSTLUDE

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CONSECRATION

451

Be Now My Vision

Ancient Irish text, c. 8th century; transl. Mary E. Byrne, 1905
Versified by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912; adapt.

Unison

1 Be now my vi - sion, O God of my heart;
2 Be now my wis - dom, and be my true word;
3 Rich - es I need not, nor life's emp - ty praise,
4 Sov - ereign of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

noth - ing sur - pass - es the love you im - part—
ev - er with - in me, my soul is as - sured;
you, my in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav - en's Sun!

You my best thought, by day or by night,
Moth - er and Fa - ther, you are both to me,
You and you on - ly are first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, your pres - ence my light.
now and for - ev - er your child I will be.
great God, my trea - sure, may we nev - er part.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Dating from the eighth century or earlier, this Irish hymn was translated into prose by Mary Byrne. It was then versified by Eleanor Hull, author of several books on Irish literature and history. David Evans arranged the Irish melody for this text in 1927.

Tune: SLANE 10.10.9.10.
Traditional Irish melody
Harm. David Evans, 1927