



Hope UCC Weekly Update: November 22, 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.

Youth Group News

We are sorry to have to do so, but in order to keep everyone safe, we are going to pause our in person meetings of Youth Group. Keep wearing your masks, keep the 6 foot distance, wash your hands, and stay well and safe! Watch for Youth Group news and updates!

Posada Cancelled

Our Posada scheduled for December 5 has been cancelled due to, what else, covid safety concerns. Thank you!

Della Update

Della is doing well and should be discharged from her rehabilitation center Friday, November 20. She will continue her care in Wisconsin at her sons home. Her new mailing address is:

15370 West Mayflower Dr.
New Berlin, WI 53151

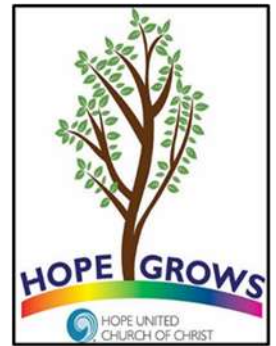
Zucchini Bread & Dried Sage: Fall Treasures from Dan Hawotte's Garden

Dan Hawotte is not letting Covid keep him from supplying us with his wonderful dried sage and delicious zucchini bread, and we are so grateful! If you are interested in either or both, please let Dan and Barb know and they can arrange for delivery. Thank you, Dan, for providing the special ingredient that helps make all our savory dishes taste so much better! And that zucchini bread? Out of this world!



**Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL
Worship Bulletin November 22, 2020
Reign of Christ**

*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, God is seeking to gather us together. Like a shepherd searching for lost sheep, God calls us.

Many: **Something or someone has summoned us here. Dare we believe that God knows and welcomes us?**

One: God reaches out to rescue all who have strayed. Scattered, weak, and injured ones are drawn to God.

Many: **We come, in need of healing, seeking a blessing. Our faith draws us here, in spite of our doubts.**

One: Come, above all else, to worship and give thanks. Make a joyful noise to the Creator of all worlds.

Many: **God's steadfast love becomes real to us here. We are reminded of God's immeasurable greatness.**

INVITING GOD INTO OUR MIDST

We come with gladness, loving God, drawn by our need and by a desire to praise you and give thanks. Enlighten the eyes of our hearts that we may be full of hope. Enlarge the circle of our concern that we may see the stranger as next of kin, the hungry person as part of our own family, the one who is sick as a whole individual deserving of our care. Grant us the presence of Christ that we may learn more fully to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Amen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All-knowing God, you are aware of our comfort-seeking weakness. We ignore strangers in need as if they were no concern of ours. We resist programs that might threaten our privileges. We do only enough good to keep us from feeling guilty. We give grudgingly of our time and resources, instead of overflowing with thanksgiving and joyous sharing. We treat the church as our possession rather than letting Christ rule as head of the body. O God, we pray we have not wandered beyond your reach. 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

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

Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love[£] toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God[£] put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Matthew 25:31-46

³¹“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was

it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family,[£] you did it to me.' ⁴¹Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴²for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' ⁴⁴Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' ⁴⁵Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' ⁴⁶And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

SERMON "Spreading Thankfulness"

SERMON HYMN #422 *Come, O Thankful People, Come*

INVITATION TO OFFERING

The riches we enjoy grant to us an exciting opportunity to be generous and work for good. Through our offerings, we seek to share the good news, to bind up the injured, strengthen the weak, secure justice for the oppressed, and bring back those who have strayed. Join in this venture as we present our gifts.

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

God of steadfast love, receive these expressions of our thanks for the glorious inheritance entrusted to us. We hereby enlist ourselves and our resources toward the realization of your eternal purpose for all humanity. May this congregation become more and more a source of hope for each of us and for all we meet. Amen.

BENEDICTION

One: Go forth in faith, with love for all the saints. Open your eyes to see the good in all you meet.

Many: We believe that God is empowering our ministry. God's love enables us to love even in difficult times.

One: Among God's gifts is a spirit of wisdom and revelation. God grants insight and resources to be helpful to others.

Many: Reaching out to people in need is a service to Christ. We want to treat others as part of God's family.

One: We partake of eternal life through our caring. We sense life's meaning in the midst of our sharing.

Many: God's steadfast love inspires our risk-taking service. God's faithfulness to us evokes generosity.

POSTLUDE

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Come, O Thankful People, Come

Exod. 23:16

St. 1, Henry Alford, 1844; alt.

St. 2, Anna Laetitia Aiken Barbauld, 1772; alt.

St. 3, composite of Alford and Barbauld; alt.

Descant



3 These to you, our God, we owe, source from whom all blessings flow;

1 Come, O thank-ful peo-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest home;

2 All the bless-ings of the field, all the stores the gar-dens yield,

3 These to you, our God, we owe, source from whom all blessings flow;

This hymn represents the joining of two Thanksgiving hymns by nineteenth-century poet Henry Alford and eighteenth-century poet Anna Laetitia Aiken Barbauld. The creator of this combined form, which appeared early in the twentieth century, is not known.

Tune: ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR 7.7.7.D.

George J. Elvey, 1858

Descant: H. A. Chambers, 1931

and for these our songs we raise, grate - ful vows and sol - emn praise.

all is safe - ly gath - ered in as the win - ter storms be - gin;
 all the fruits in full sup - ply, rip - ened 'neath the sum - mer sky,
 and for these our songs we raise, grate - ful vows and sol - emn praise.

Come, then, thank - ful peo - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home;

God our Mak - er does pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied;
 All that spring with boun - teous hand scat - ters o'er the smil - ing land,
 Come, then, thank - ful peo - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home;

come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.

come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.
 all that lib - eral au - tumn pours from its rich o'er - flow - ing stores,
 come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.