



## Hope UCC Weekly Update: October 10, 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.*

### Welcome New Members!

This Sunday we will receive John & Virginia Anderson as new members of Hope UCC. Welcome John and Ginny – we are grateful that you are continuing your faith journey with us!

### Congregational Sympathy

Congregational sympathy is shared with the family of Marge Forrest who died Tuesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>. Marge began worshipping with Hope UCC through our livestream during the shutdown and has continued joining us for worship until she became too ill to log on to our services. You may have seen and/or met Marge and her daughter, Sharon, during the worship services through their comments or during zoom coffee hours when they logged on to a few of those. Our love and prayers are lifted for Sharon and her family in this time of loss.

### Reel Theology on October 15: *Departures*

Please join us as we watch and discuss the film *Departures*. Bring your own dinner at 5:30 if you would like to eat together before the film begins at 6:00. This beautiful, funny, and very touching film tells the story of a young man in Japan who is a devoted cellist in an orchestra who loses his job and returns to his home town with his wife to look for work and start over. He mistakenly answers an advertisement for a job and is hired as a funeral professional. While his wife and others despise the job, he learns to take pride in his work and begins to perfect the art of "Nokanshi," acting as a gentle gatekeeper between life and death, between the departed and the family of the departed. The film follows his profound and sometimes comical journey with death as he uncovers the wonder, joy and meaning of life and living. The film is rated PG13 and is in Japanese with English subtitles.

### An Illustrated Faith: Deepening Our Spiritual Journey through Creative Journaling

#### Saturday, October 16 at 3:30-5:00 P.M.

Families of one and families of many are invited to join the Faith Exploration Ministry for this fun and informative afternoon workshop. Reverend Lisa Gaston will lead us in this spiritual practice. **No artistic background or experience is necessary** for this practice which is found to deepen our engagement with scripture and prayer practices. Many have found that Bible journaling brings a new awareness of scripture of texts they have heard and read for many years, because engaging with it creatively offers a fresh perspective to them.

**This is a fun and meaningful time together designed for all ages to share together so please bring your children and/or grandchildren or other children in your life.** Childcare will be available for children under the age of 5 (please let the church office know if you will need childcare).

If you have materials you like to use for drawing or illustrating, please bring them: colored pencils, crayons, markers, chalk, paint, pastels, etc. Faith Exploration will provide the paper materials for journaling as well as a variety of colored pencils and markers so please let us know you will be attending. RSVP with the church office either by calling or emailing:

309-762-1419 or office.hopeuccqc@gmail.com

We will have refreshments provided at 3:30 and the program will begin at 3:45. A \$5 donation is suggested. Please contact the Faith Exploration Ministry members with any questions: Laura Black, Sue Grchan, Kim Powell, and Jan Birdsell.



Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL  
 Worship Bulletin October 10, 2021  
 Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost  
**"Share Earthly and Spiritual Resources"**  
*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!*

**BE THE CHURCH**  
*Protect the environment. Care for the poor.*  
 Forgive often. **Reject racism.**  
**Fight for the powerless.**  
 Share earthly and spiritual resources.  
 Embrace diversity. Love God. Enjoy this life.

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

We are God's church:

**We come together to worship.**

God has given us God's Word:

**We come together to learn from God.**

God has filled us with God's love:

**We go out to share God's love with others.**

God calls us into God's family:

**We come together to share our lives.**

God has put God's words on our lips:

**We go out to tell the world about God.**

God has given us God's Spirit:

**We come together to celebrate and live the Good News.**

We are God's church:

**We come together to worship. We come together to be the church.**

**\*OPENING HYMN** *Come with Me into the Fields* (see end of bulletin)

**\*INVITING GOD INTO OUR MIDST**

**God who leads and guides us, you have opened the doors to us for true service. What would you have us do? Together, we seek your call in our lives and pray that you will help us to look beyond words so that we may see the ways we will serve and share our earthly and spiritual resources. Open our hearts and our spirits this day to receive your guidance. Help us to be those people who will bring good news to those in darkness and doubt. Strengthen us to be those people whom you have created us to be. Amen.**

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of Abundance, forgive us: we have held tight to that which we claim is ours alone; we have hoarded resources rather than sharing them; we have had more than enough when others were still in need. Have mercy on us, and transform us so that we may be merciful to others, sharing what we have and who we are—gifts given generously by you. 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.)*

## WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

**All: We welcome you with joy! As partners in the common life of this congregation, we pledge to you our friendship and prayers as we grow together in God's transforming love. We give thanks that you join us now, as God's Holy Spirit guides us together as fellow seekers and servants and witnesses of our risen Savior!**

Prayer of Blessing (in unison)

**O God, we praise you for calling us to both seek and serve you, and for gathering us into this church. Together may we grow in your Spirit, building one another up in love and ministering to the world as followers of Jesus. Amen.**

## 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

Matthew 25:31-46

<sup>31</sup>"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. <sup>32</sup>All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, <sup>33</sup>and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. <sup>34</sup>Then 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; <sup>35</sup>for 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, <sup>36</sup>I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' <sup>37</sup>Then 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? <sup>38</sup>And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup>And when

was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' <sup>40</sup>And 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,<sup>£</sup> you did it to me.' <sup>41</sup>Then 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; <sup>42</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup>I 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.' <sup>44</sup>Then 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?' <sup>45</sup>Then 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.' <sup>46</sup>And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

SERMON "Share Earthly and Spiritual Resources"

SERMON HYMN #539 *Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?* (see end of bulletin)

#### INVITATION TO OFFERING

Jesus felt tender compassion for the suffering people he met. He realized that many workers would be needed for a great harvest of mercy and love. This day you and I are called to this work for the reign of God. This very day you and I are called to a sweet labor of generosity, healing, and peace. Let us bring our gifts, then, so that the ministry of this church will be a growing, vibrant witness to God's love. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise.

#### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Holy God, we bring to you the ordinary things of life- our earthly resources and all they can buy; but with them, we also bring ourselves. We pray that you continue to challenge us to share these resources. We pray that you use them to do your work in the world. We offer from our tables because you have fed us first from yours. In gratitude and praise we pray, Amen.**

\*BENEDICTION

#### POSTLUDE

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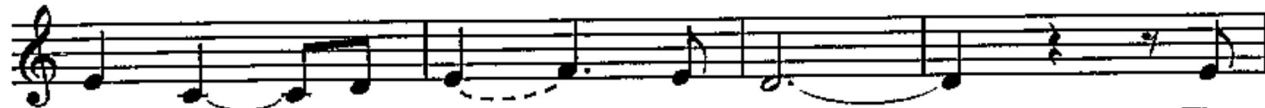
# COME WITH ME INTO THE FIELDS

Dan Schutte

## Verses



1. The fields are high and sum-mer's days are few;
2. The seeds were sown by oth - er hands than yours;
3. Your eyes have seen the ho - ly face of God,



1. green fields have turned to gold. The
2. nur - tured and cared for, they grew. But
3. hid - den from these who are wise. The



1. time is here for the har-vest - ing, for
2. those who have sown will not har-vest them; the
3. reign of God is with - in your heart; the

## Refrain



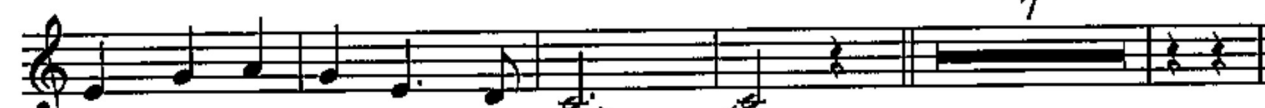
1. gath - er - ing home in - to barns. The har-vest is
2. reap - ing will not be their care.
3. king - dom of heav - en is near!



plen-ty, la-bor-ers are few. Come with me in - to the fields.



Your arms may grow wea-ry, your shoes will wear thin.



Come with me in - to the fields.

Text: Based on Matthew 9:38; John 4:35-38; Luke 10:2-21. Text and music © 1971, 1974, 2007, Daniel L. Schutte.

# Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?

539

Richard Gillard, 1977; alt.

Rom. 12:9-18; Col. 1:24-29

1 & 6 Won't you let me be your ser-vant, let me be as Christ to you?  
 2 We are pil-grims on a jour-ney, we are trav-ellers on the road;  
 3 I will hold the Christ-light for you in the shad-ow of your fear;  
 4 I will weep when you are weep-ing; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.  
 5 When we sing to God in heav-en we shall find such har-mo-ny,

Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my ser-vant, too.  
 We are here to help each oth-er go the mile and bear the load.  
 I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.  
 I will share your joy and sor-row till we've seen this jour-ney through.  
 Born of all we've known to-geth-er of Christ's love and ag-o-ny.  
 (repeat stanza 1)

Richard Gillard was born in England and later made his home in New Zealand. Largely self-taught, Gillard has described his musical style as "folk." This is the best known of his many songs in the United States.

Tune: SERVANT SONG 8.7.8.7.  
 Richard Gillard, 1977  
 Arr. Betty Carr Pulkingham, 1977; adapt.