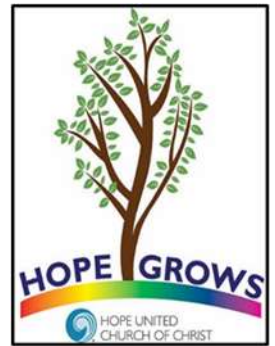




Moses
by John August Swanson

Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL
Worship Bulletin September 27, 2020
Seventeenth 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 *It Is Well* - DiMarco/Bliss

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, let us remember God's presence with us. Let us give ear to all that God would teach us.

Many: Our ancestors have told us about God's might. They have celebrated God's wondrous deeds.

One: In the wilderness of Sinai, God provided water. Through the sea, God provided safe passage.

Many: Yet the Israelites questioned God's presence. They needed assurance amid their doubts.

One: Our doubts can lead to honest searching. God welcomes questions that seek new truth.

Many: We want to see God's larger picture. We are here to broaden the scope of our concern.

INVITING GOD INTO OUR MIDST

We marvel, O God, at the thought that you care about us. We are amazed that the Creator of the universe would take on human flesh to draw near to us in ways we could begin to understand. As Jesus emptied himself to serve, modeling your love even in the face of death, we seek in these moments to lay aside self-interest that we might take direction from you. Help us to humble ourselves in order to obey you, to listen in order to hear, to care in order to serve. Lead us day and night through the dangers of the wilderness of our times. Lead us in these moments to honest and fervent worship. Amen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We fear to approach you with our confession, holy God, for you may require changes in us that are costly. You ask us to have the mind of Christ, a mind free of pretense and self-interest. You challenge us to lay aside our advantages to go where you send us. We fear loss of security if we are obedient. It is hard to see ourselves as exploiters when we pursue advantages for our families. It is difficult to consider others when we feel like victims. We confess our need for you and our desire to find your purpose for us. 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 *Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling* - Thompson

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 SCRIPTURE LESSON

Exodus 17:1-7

¹From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" ³But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" ⁴So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He called the place Massah[£] and Meribah,[£] because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

SERMON

INVITATION TO OFFERING

As Christ gave up selfish ambition and conceit for human beings like us, may we offer our best for sisters and brothers who need the message we can send and the practical help we can provide through our offerings.

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

We empty our pockets, trusting you, O God. We empty our selfish ambitions, believing that the common good is of greater concern. We give because you have richly blessed us. We present ourselves in your service because you have gifted us in so many ways. We reach out helping hands because we care about all those you have called us to love. May every tongue confessing Christ as Savior share in that mind which so powerfully demonstrates your love. Amen.

BENEDICTION

One: Go forth to serve in the spirit of Christ. Dare to question false values that hold us captive.

Many: We will seek the mind of Christ in all things. We will put aside selfish ambition and conceit.

One: Look to the greatest interests of all people. In humility, view each person as precious to God.

Many: We count it a privilege to serve in Christ's name. We are grateful for the saving power of love.

One: Remember always that God is at work in you. With God's help, amazing good can be accomplished.

Many: May we do what we have so boldly declared. May we follow and serve in joyous obedience.

Amen

POSTLUDE *Kum Ba Yah* - Traditional