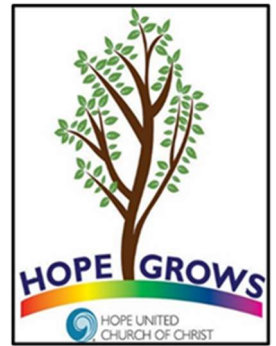




*Love Lets Go of Power,  
Tile from Peace Wall in  
Hamilton, New Zealand*

**Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL**  
**Worship Bulletin October 25, 2020**  
**Twenty-First 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

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Gather together to hear stories of faith and courage. Listen for the ways God has acted among us.

**Many: Our ancestors in the faith listened for God's Word. They dared to believe God's promises.**

One: Leaders like Moses and Paul saw evidence of God's work. They believed they were face-to-face with God's truth.

**Many: They looked beyond the present moment. They lived for dreams not yet realized.**

One: Many felt God's love in knowing Jesus. They experienced a new relationship with neighbors.

**Many: We have come seeking community centered in Christ. We want to feel God's presence as we worship.**

### INVITING GOD INTO OUR MIDST

**God, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the earth was formed, long before there were people on this planet, you were fashioning life in its myriad forms. Out of the billions of years you have been creating, our lives have come to this moment of meeting. We stand in awe before you, amazed to discover that you care about us, tiny blips on the screen of eternity. O God, we want our lives to count for something. Show us how to fit into your plans. Amen**

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God, we have missed your signs and wonders because we are so busy creating our own. Those around us who pretend to be your prophets offer little to which we aspire. Yet, we would pray with the psalmist, "Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so we may rejoice and be glad all our days." Where is the meaning we have missed in all our striving? Does Jesus hold the key when he says, "Love God with all your being," and "Love your neighbor as yourself"? O God, we long to make sense out of life. Help us to follow your way. 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    Veni Creator Spiritus    arr. Roberts

Ben Holmes and Mary Tallitsch

## 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

Psalms 90

- <sup>1</sup> Lord, you have been our dwelling place<sup>£</sup>  
in all generations.
- <sup>2</sup> Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,  
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.
- <sup>3</sup> You turn us<sup>£</sup> back to dust,  
and say, "Turn back, you mortals."
- <sup>4</sup> For a thousand years in your sight  
are like yesterday when it is past,  
or like a watch in the night.
- <sup>5</sup> You sweep them away; they are like a dream,  
like grass that is renewed in the morning;
- <sup>6</sup> in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;  
in the evening it fades and withers.
- <sup>7</sup> For we are consumed by your anger;  
by your wrath we are overwhelmed.
- <sup>8</sup> You have set our iniquities before you,  
our secret sins in the light of your countenance.
- <sup>9</sup> For all our days pass away under your wrath;  
our years come to an end<sup>£</sup> like a sigh.
- <sup>10</sup> The days of our life are seventy years,  
or perhaps eighty, if we are strong;  
even then their span<sup>£</sup> is only toil and trouble;

they are soon gone, and we fly away.

- <sup>11</sup> Who considers the power of your anger?  
Your wrath is as great as the fear that is due you.
- <sup>12</sup> So teach us to count our days  
that we may gain a wise heart.
- <sup>13</sup> Turn, O LORD! How long?  
Have compassion on your servants!
- <sup>14</sup> Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,  
so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.
- <sup>15</sup> Make us glad as many days as you have afflicted us,  
and as many years as we have seen evil.
- <sup>16</sup> Let your work be manifest to your servants,  
and your glorious power to their children.
- <sup>17</sup> Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,  
and prosper for us the work of our hands—  
O prosper the work of our hands!

## NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 22:34-40

<sup>34</sup>When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, <sup>35</sup>and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. <sup>36</sup>“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” <sup>37</sup>He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ <sup>38</sup>This is the greatest and first commandment. <sup>39</sup>And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ <sup>40</sup>On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

SERMON “Inseparable”

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Grady Birdsell

## INVITATION TO OFFERING

We who have been entrusted with the message of the gospel have the means to make it known to the world. Our tithes and offerings are dedicated to that purpose. As we present them, we also submit ourselves to God’s purposes and direction.

*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

As we give ourselves and our offerings, we pray, O God, that they may reveal your love in such a way that many will respond. Awaken in us a love for you and for one another that is contagious. Remove from us all apathy, pretension, and greed that we may grow in holiness and compassion, living joyously in communion with you. Amen.

## BENEDICTION

One: Brothers and sisters, our coming together is not in vain. God is doing a new thing among us and beyond us.

**Many: We have sensed a vision of God's plan for us. God's sign and wonders await our discovery.**

One: God has compassion on all who seek to serve. Steadfast love is with all who continue in faithfulness.

**Many: God's glorious power is manifested in humility. Surely God's favor rests upon us here.**

One: Now we go out with courage, entrusted with the gospel. We carry good news of God's love to our neighbors.

**Many: We will be gentle with others as God is gentle with us. We offer tender care in the spirit of Jesus. Amen**

## POSTLUDE

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