



### **Hope UCC Weekly Update: December 11, 2022**

*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.*

### **Advent Angel Tree at Hope UCC**



This year Hope UCC's Mission and Outreach Ministry has partnered with Rock Island Academy to bring Christmas hope, love, peace, and joy to their teachers and students by filling the teacher classroom wish lists. We will also have the most needed items for World Relief on the Angel Tree as they continue to welcome newly arrived immigrants and refugees to the Quad Cities. The Angel Tree is located in Fellowship Hall. Please take a tag and attach it to the gift when you return it to church. Presents do not have to be wrapped, but please remember to attach that tag. If you would like to make a monetary donation to the Angel Tree, be assured it will be used to purchase items on the tree. If you make a monetary donation, please write "Angel Tree" on the envelope or memo line of the check. Gifts should be returned to Hope UCC by January 1. Thank you for supporting this special outreach ministry.



### **Blessing Box Donations**

Thank you for your ongoing support with donations. Please keep it coming. This week's needs include: dry soups, dry potato mix, peanut butter, bar soap, & dental floss. As we are coming into the freezing months, we do not want liquids that will freeze in the blessing box. Please stick with dry goods that will not freeze. Diapers size 4,5,6 are welcome, too.

### **Annual Meeting January 29th: Revised Proposed 2023 Constitution Changes Now Available**

Please make sure you pick up or download a copy of Hope UCC's revised proposed 2023 Constitution changes as soon as possible in preparation for our Annual Meeting January 29th following worship. The proposed constitutional changes are available in hard copy on the Greeter's Table. It is also available as a link on Hope UCC's website: [www.hopeuccqc.org](http://www.hopeuccqc.org). If you would like a copy of the proposed changes mailed to you, please make your request to Bridget in the church office. Copies of the Annual Report will be available prior to the Annual Meeting.

The Annual Meeting will take place immediately following worship on January 29th

If you have any questions about the proposed constitutional revisions, please contact our Treasurer, Bob Tallitsch, or Pastor Santana. Thank you!

**Book Wrapping**

Hope UCC will be taking part in a Christmas Party for children at Spring Brook Courts on Thursday the 22nd of December. The event is scheduled to run from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. They plan to have Santa there and have cookies and cocoa and perhaps a craft. What we will be doing, is wrapping books in Christmas paper for the kids to take home with them. We will plan to go at 1:00 to set up our area of books. Volunteers are needed to do the wrapping. Please contact me if you would like to help with this fun project and/or if you are able to donate Christmas wrapping paper, scotch tape, and to/from labels.

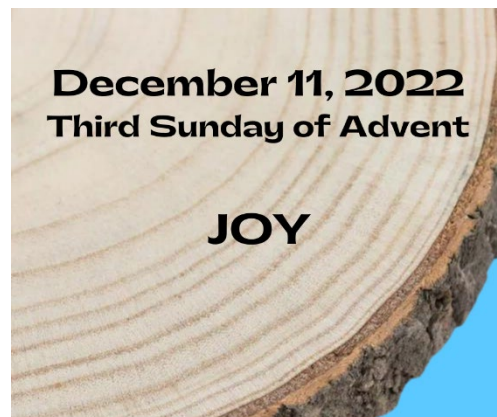
Barb Hawotte



**Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL**  
**Worship Bulletin December 11, 2022**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**  
**JOY**

*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!*

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



PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

**One:** Over a hundred people, from the ages of two to eighty years old, were asked the question, "What brings you joy?" Here are their answers:

- L:** A clean kitchen.
- P:** Sand between my toes.
- L:** Being outside.
- P:** My partner's laugh.
- L:** Mountain air.
- P:** The end of my to-do list.
- L:** Hugs from my niece and nephew.
- P:** Baby giggles.
- L:** My cat.
- P:** Putting my hands in the garden.
- L:** Stargazing.
- P:** A warm cup of coffee with friends.
- L:** Lingered at the table after dinner.
- P:** Time with family.

**One:** Today we light the candle of joy. May its light remind us of all the good news this season brings. May its light remind us of the many sources of joy in our lives, and may that joy not only draw us closer to one another, but closer to God.

(Pink candle is lit)

**Many: May this light be a reminder that Christ is coming. God was with generations before, God is with us today, and God will be with us tomorrow. Even now, God is on the way. Joy is coming to us. Amen.**

CANDLE LIGHTING HYMN: *Lead Us to Your Light*LEAD US TO YOUR LIGHT  
Gathering Rite1. Processional Song  
Refrain

Carol Browning

The image shows two staves of musical notation for a hymn. The first staff is labeled 'Refrain' and has the lyrics 'Lead us to your light, lead us out of dark-ness.' The second staff has the lyrics 'Lead us to your light. Come, Je - sus, come.' The music is written in a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The notes are simple, consisting of quarter and eighth notes.

## SILENT REFLECTION

Where did you experience joy this past week?

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

**One:** Rejoice! God's promises are ever near.

**Many:** We wait for Christ's birth with patience.

**One:** Rejoice! God's strength is with us.

**Many:** We rest in the power of God's mighty love!

**One:** Rejoice! We gather in joy of our salvation.

**Many:** In this love, we gather to worship and pray.

\*OPENING HYMN #102 *O How Shall I Receive You* (see end of bulletin)

## \*INVITING GOD INTO OUR MIDST

**Holy God, enter our hearts anew. Enter our worship with your promised presence, that we may know you better. Enter our lives and our world, that we may proclaim your presence and sing your praises. Let us be like Joseph, who heard you and had the courage to follow you. With joyous gratitude, we pray in your blessed name. Amen**

## \*CALL TO CONFESSION

## \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of mercy, a million times a day we have the opportunity to be gracious, to assume the best in others, to give the benefit of the doubt. A million times a day we could choose the better way, but so often we don't. Fear and greed kick in. Assumptions and insecurities take the wheel. Comparison and critique lead the charge. Forgive us for forgetting that we are descendants of Joseph. Forgive us for forgetting that grace and mercy are in our blood. Forgive us for forgetting that all belong to you. Give us the courage to love even bigger than before, and the wisdom to choose a better 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.)*

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

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus 2 it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. 3 Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. 4 Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." 5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened; 6 then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert; 7 the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp; the grass shall become reeds and rushes. 8 A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. 9 No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. 10 And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

\*GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. 19 Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. 20 But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." 22 All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 23 "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." 24 When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife 25 but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

## SERMON

SERMON HYMN #103 *Watcher Tell Us of the Night* (see end of bulletin)

## INVITATION TO OFFERING

One: God makes us new in a million ways each day. God never hesitates to appear before us, filling our hearts each day. May God fill our hearts and may they grow in love and care as we share the many gifts God has given us.

*Hope UCC thanks you for the gifts you share with this congregation. Your offering enables us to live into our mission. Offering plates are located near the Sanctuary doors.*

## UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Gracious God, you have restored us in body and soul. You have given us abundant life, more than we could ever imagine. You have made us whole. We pray that you will bless our offerings of hearts and our lives, that we might shine as you shine and share your blessings with others. Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN (while bringing up decorations for the tree)

Hand Bell Choir: To the World, Joy

Hymn: Joy to the World

## CLOSING INVITATION

How will you bring joy to the world this week?

## BENEDICTION

**One:** Go forth with a dream in your soul and a song in your heart;

**Many: We believe that God's promises are always fulfilled.**

**One:** The time is almost here. Get ready for wonder! Get ready for joy!

**Many: Joy is near. Emmanuel will come to us. Joy is near. Amen.**

## POSTLUDE

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## O How Shall I Receive You

102

*Paul Gerhardt, 1653**Transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, and others; alt.*

1 O how shall I re - ceive you, how meet you on your way,  
 2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you un - to me;  
 3 You come, O Christ, with glad - ness, in mer - cy and good - will,

blessed hope of ev - ery peo - ple, my soul's de - light and stay?  
 your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.  
 to bring an end to sad - ness and bid our fears be still.

O Je - sus, Je - sus, give me now by your own pure light,  
 O love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace  
 In pa - tient ex - pec - ta - tion we live for that great day

to know what-e'er is pleas - ing and wel - come in your sight.  
 in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race.  
 when a re - newed cre - a - tion your glo - ry shall dis - play.

*As a German Lutheran pastor serving during the Thirty Years' War, Paul Gerhardt's trials were legion. In the midst of it all, he composed more than a hundred hymns, among them some of the finest and most beloved in Christian hymnody.*

Tune: ST. THEODULPH 7.6.7.6.D.  
 (VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN)  
*Melchior Teschner, 1615*



## 103

## Watcher, Tell Us of the Night

*Isa. 21:11-12**John Bowring, 1825; alt.*

1 Watch-er, tell us of the night, what its signs of prom-ise are.  
 2 Watch-er, tell us of the night, high-er yet that star as-cends.  
 3 Watch-er, tell us of the night, for the morn-ing seems to dawn.

Trav - eler, O a won-drous sight! See that glo-ry - beam-ing star!  
 Trav - eler, bless-ed - ness and light, peace and truth its course por - tends.  
 Trav - eler, shad-ows take their flight, doubt and ter-ror - are with-drawn.

Watch-er, does its beau-teous ray news of joy or hope fore - tell?  
 Watch-er, will its beams a - lone gild the spot that gave them birth?  
 Watch-er, you may go your way; has-ten to your qui - et home.

Trav-eler, yes; it brings the day, prom - ised day of Is - ra - el!  
 Trav-eler, a - ges are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth!  
 Trav-eler, I re - joiice to-day, for Em - man - u - el has come!

*This hymn, a dialogue between watcher and traveler, was suggested by the dialogue in Isaiah 21:11-12. John Bowring was a gifted linguist, worker for political and social reform, member of Parliament, and governor of Hong Kong.*

Tune: ABERYSTWYTH 7.7.7.D.

*Joseph Parry, 1879*

Alternate tune: ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR