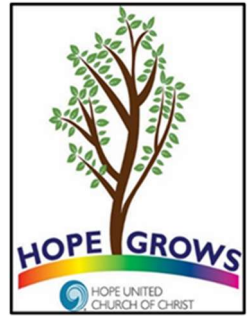


**Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL**  
**Worship Bulletin April 11, 2021**  
**Second Sunday of Easter**

*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!*



Jesus Mafa, *Jesus appears to Thomas*,  
 from Art in the Christian Tradition,  
 a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Life has been revealed to us in this Easter season. Gather once more to testify to life.

**Many: We declare to each other what we have experienced. In community we find the life God intends.**

One: Early believers were of one heart and soul. We, too, are called to find common ground in Christ.

**Many: How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity.**

One: Peace be with you as we celebrate resurrection. Christ is with us to renew our faith.

**Many: We are here to testify to God's grace. We will share our story and ourselves.**

**INVITING GOD INTO OUR MIDST**

**You pour out upon us the oil of gladness, gracious God, as we gather in the name of our risen Savior. You have given us the Word of Life; we have heard and seen your greatest of all gifts and testify to that experience by our presence here. Let Jesus Christ be known among us, in our conversation and in our prayers. May our thoughts center on the message that light has come to chase away the shadows, community has been born to remove our isolation, joy has been heaped upon us that we might share it with the world. Amen.**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**We have taken the name Christian, but few of us are known primarily by that name. We have experienced Easter radiance, but we seldom reflect the light of our risen Savior. We have heard the message of salvation, but it grows cold on our lips and is of little influence on our lives. Sometimes we delude ourselves that, because we are basically good people, there is no sin in us. We deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. Sin is separation from you, and we have allowed great chasms and built high walls to keep you out of our lives. Forgive us, we pray. 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 LESSON

John 20:19-31

<sup>19</sup>When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

<sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin<sup>£</sup>), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

<sup>26</sup>A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book.

<sup>31</sup>But these are written so that you may come to believe<sup>£</sup> that Jesus is the Messiah,<sup>£</sup> the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

SERMON "Faith and Doubt" David Sheridan

SERMON HYMN #256 *We Live by Faith and Not by Sight*

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Among the first Christians, there were no needy people because those who were rich brought their resources to be shared. They gave up their advantages so the needs of all could be met. Out of the rich legacy they have passed on to us, we bring our tithes and offerings in thanksgiving for all God's 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](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

We offer to you our common stewardship, loving God. We want to be faithful in meeting one another's needs and in serving the world in Christ's name. The gifts we bring today will not mark an end to our giving. We sense that you are sending us, as Jesus was sent, to share light with the world. Thus, we dedicate our time and effort as further offering. May life and faith be extended to many through us. Amen.

BENEDICTION

One: You are sent into the world as a sign of God's love. Go forth, carrying God's peace to all you meet.

**Many: We will live in unity with our kindred; We will listen and speak as God guides us.**

One: You are commissioned as a bearer of God's forgiveness. Announce good news, sharing your testimony.

**Many: It will be our joy to reconcile others to God. We will extend to them the fellowship of light.**

One: The grace of Jesus Christ has been poured out on you. God ordains a blessing for you: life forevermore.

**Many: Our fears are unlocked; our faith is renewed. We will invite our neighbors to share the joy. Amen.**

POSTLUDE

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# We Live by Faith and Not by Sight

256

Henry Alford, 1844; alt.

John 20:24-29

Unison

1 We live by faith and not by sight;  
 2 We may not touch Christ's hands and side,  
 3 Help then, O Christ, our un-be-lief;  
 4 That, when our life of faith is done,

no gra-cious words we hear From Christ who spoke as  
 nor fol-low where Christ trod; But in con-fess-ing  
 and may our faith a-bound To call on you when  
 in realms of clear-er light We may be-hold you

none e'er spoke, who still we know is near.  
 we re-joice: our Sav-ior and our God!  
 you are near and seek where you are found:  
 as you are, with full and end-less sight.

*As dean of Canterbury, Henry Alford exemplified ecumenism by working closely with non-Anglican groups. He promoted New Testament scholarship with his famous commentary on the Greek New Testament, one of fifty books he published during his lifetime.*

Tune: DUNLAP'S CREEK C.M.  
*Samuel McFarland, c. 1816*  
*Harm. Richard Proulx, 1986*