

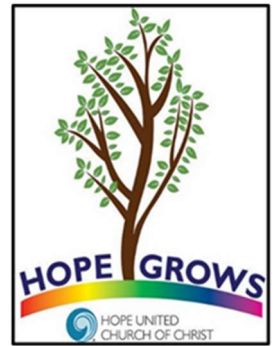


Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL
Worship Bulletin October 18, 2020
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

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!*



Hand of God;

Detail of the vault of the apse of Sant
 Climent de Taüll in the Museu Nacional
 d'Art de Catalunya in Barcelona, Spain

PRELUDE *My Jesus, I Love Thee* - arr. Labenske

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We are drawn to worship by a Reality unseen. The One we call God is beyond human description.

Many: God is more than we can ever imagine. We sense God's presence as we meditate.

One: We gather in awe to bring our songs of praise. The Creator of all things has given us life.

Many: We are amazed by the wonders around us. We feel God's presence as we sing together.

One: We are summoned by One who is just and merciful. The Ruler of all worlds expects us to respond.

Many: How amazing that God chooses us as messengers. We know God is with us as we work for justice.

INVITING GOD INTO OUR MIDST

Appear to us here, God of all worlds, for we need your assurance and blessing. We seek the strength to do what is right and just. We long to see you, even though we sense that a god we could see would be only a tiny part of you whose Spirit fills all time and space. We want to be certain that our decisions and actions are right, but often it is only long afterwards that we realize you were with us. O God, we want to be open to all you are revealing to us now. Amen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Awesome God, how puny is our cleverness before the magnitude of your reality! How fleeting are our days measured against the far reaches of eternity! Yet we set our limited knowledge and restricted purposes against your will for us and presume to direct our own affairs and those of the whole world. O God, we are trapped in our pretensions. Turn us from our need for proof to extravagant praise. Turn us inside out so our self-interest becomes concern for all your neglected children. Suppress in us the sinful ways we find so difficult to manage on our own, that we may joyously render to you all that is already yours. 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.)

BELL ANTHEM *How Can I Keep From Singing* arr. Mitchell and Sandra Eithun

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 33:12-23

¹²Moses said to the LORD, "See, you have said to me, 'Bring up this people'; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.' ¹³Now if I have found favor in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people." ¹⁴He said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." ¹⁵And he said to him, "If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. ¹⁶For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth."

¹⁷The LORD said to Moses, "I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name." ¹⁸Moses said, "Show me your glory, I pray." ¹⁹And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, 'The LORD';[£] and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. ²⁰But," he said, "you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live." ²¹And the LORD continued, "See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; ²²and while my glory passes by I will

put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; ²³then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen.”

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 22:15-22

¹⁵Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. ¹⁶So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?” ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” ²¹They answered, “The emperor’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” ²²When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

SERMON

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

INVITATION TO OFFERING

We are partners with one another in this land and beyond, seeking to share the benefits of God’s creation with all God’s children. We support government efforts to lessen the inequities among us, but through the church we address spiritual problems that feed the prejudices and false pride that result in injustice within God’s world. We join our offerings with our personal efforts to do God’s will.

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

O God, we sense that you are calling us to manage well all the things that belong to you. The empires of this world have no claim on the resources you have provided except as they are used for the common good. The offerings we receive as a church are not for our private benefit or to buy services for ourselves. Thus we here dedicate the gifts you have provided in our money and our abilities and our time to extend a helping hand and joyous welcome to every people on the face of the earth. May our efforts find favor with you. Amen.

BENEDICTION

One: We have gathered in community to worship God. Now our service of praise continues in the world.

Many: We have been equipped with the gospel message. God empowers our outreach wherever we go.

One: God has forgiven and blessed us in this gathering. Now we scatter to forgive and bless others.

Many: Here, the Holy Spirit has deepened our convictions. Now God calls to let our faith be known in other places.

One: We serve a true and living God, everywhere present. We are blessed to be God's own people.

Many: We will spend ourselves this week for God's children. Then we will return to strengthen one another. Amen

POSTLUDE *Rock of Ages - Hastings*

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