

Word of Life by Millard Sheets

**Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL
Worship Bulletin July 12, 2020
Sixth 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 *Praeludium* - Sechter

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God's Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Open yourselves this day to receive the Word.

Many: We have committed ourselves to follow the light. We come now to be instructed by God's law.

One: Minds set on the flesh are hostile to God. Let us, therefore, open ourselves to the Spirit.

Many: We reach out for more than we can see and hear. We long to know Love's embrace deep within.

One: The Spirit of God raised Jesus from the dead. That Spirit dwells in you and offers you new life.

Many: We praise God, who saves us and gives us hope. God cares for the earth and for each one of us.

OPENING HYMN *In the Bulb There Is a Flower* (Promise)

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INVITING GOD INTO OUR MIDST

All-powerful God, we celebrate the freedom you give us to make our own response to all the possibilities you lay out before us. We are grateful for the revelation you provide through the witness of many in the Scriptures. Through their words, help us to discern your Word. Come to us in the midst of our diversity to bring understanding and mutual caring. Open us to a new appreciation of our birthright as your children. Beyond all our clamor for the things of this world, we long for the richness of spirit you alone can provide. Feed us here, we pray. Amen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All-knowing God, we know you understand us more deeply than we understand ourselves. You know how much the cares of this life weigh us down. Our thoughts and actions are often very shortsighted. We take so much for granted, failing to value the wonder of life all around us, the gift of family and friends, the amazing reality of your Spirit dwelling in us. We want to be like

good soil, receiving the seed of your word with understanding that nourishes roots of trust and joy. Free us from all that keeps us from bearing fruit for you. 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

Psalms 119:105-112

¹⁰⁵Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.

¹⁰⁶I have sworn an oath and confirmed it,
to observe your righteous ordinances.

¹⁰⁷I am severely afflicted;
give me life, O LORD, according to your word.

¹⁰⁸Accept my offerings of praise, O LORD,
and teach me your ordinances.

¹⁰⁹I hold my life in my hand continually,
but I do not forget your law.

¹¹⁰The wicked have laid a snare for me,
but I do not stray from your precepts.

¹¹¹Your decrees are my heritage forever;
they are the joy of my heart.

¹¹²I incline my heart to perform your statutes
forever, to the end.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Romans 8:1-11

¹There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit[£] of life in Christ Jesus has set you[£] free from the law of sin and of death. ³For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin,[£] he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.[£] ⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit[£] set their minds on the things of the Spirit.[£] ⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit[£] is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit,[£] since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit[£] is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ[£] from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through[£] his Spirit that dwells in you.

SERMON “Living a Life Shaped by Christ“

INVITATION TO OFFERING

God's Word has been sown among us. We are the soils, receiving seeds of truth. The harvest depends on our accepting the Word, letting it take root and getting rid of the weeds. What we offer to God is a small return on God's investment in us. Let us give with joy.

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

Accept our offering of praise and our offering of ourselves, O God, along with our tithes and contributions toward our church's mission. You have given us life and guidance for living. You have made us partakers of your own Spirit. We rejoice in the opportunity to receive and share your Word. May the ministry in which all of us have a share bear much fruit, bringing in an abundant harvest for your realm. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN *This Is a Day of New Beginnings* (Beginnings)

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BENEDICTION

One: Carry the lamp of God's Word into the week ahead. Share its light with all you meet.

Many: God's Word lights our path and guides our feet. The heritage we have received is ours to pass on.

One: Do not be bound by concerns of the flesh. Set your minds on matters of the Spirit.

Many: The Spirit of Christ dwells in us. God gives us gifts of life and peace.

One: Share in daily offerings of praise to God. Pass on the joy of living in the Spirit.

Many: Our hearts are inclined to God's statutes. Your ways, O God, bring joy to our hearts.

POSTLUDE *Praise to the Lord* - Music from Erneuernten Gesungbuch

Announcements



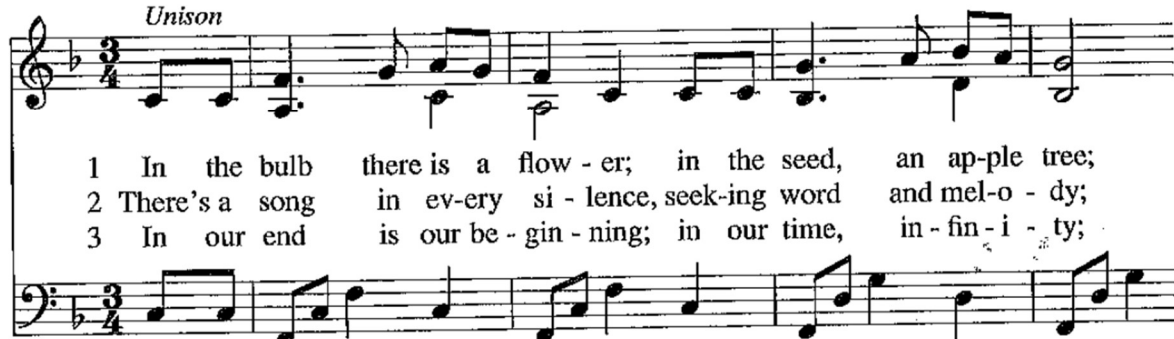
Congregational sympathy is extended to Donna Werner and her family on the death of her husband John. John passed away July 8. May you feel the love and care of your church family in this time of sadness.

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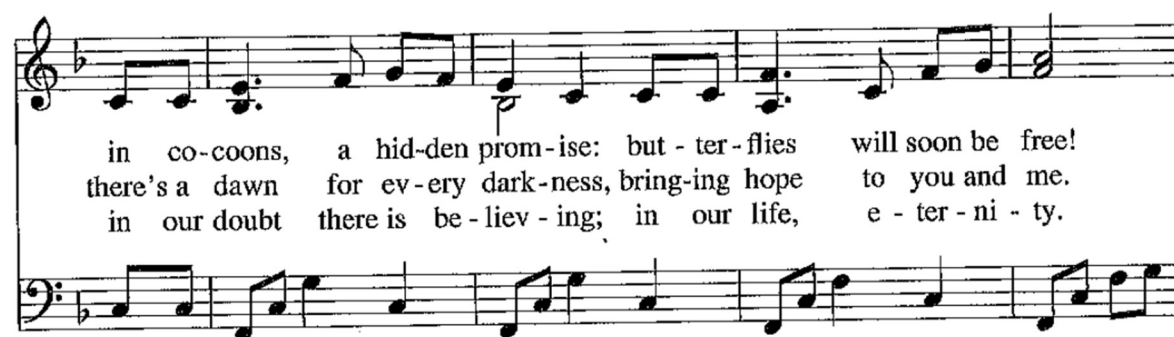
In the Bulb There Is a Flower

Natalie Sleeth, 1985

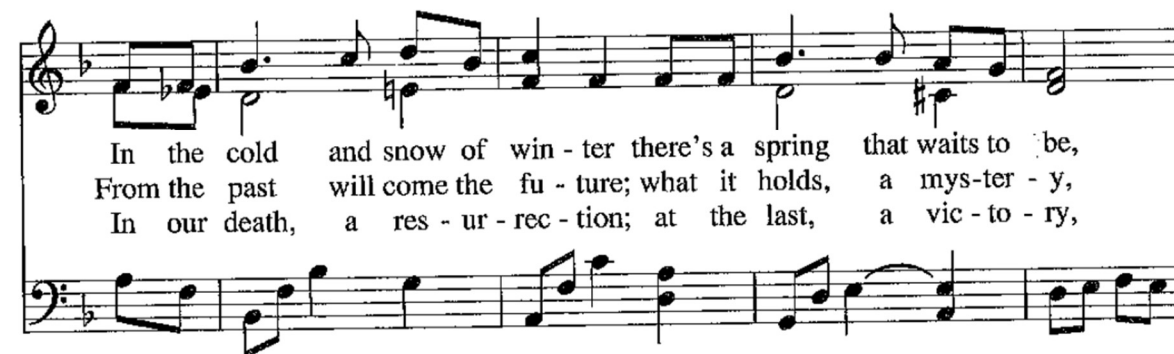
Unison



1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
 2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
 3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;



in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise; but - ter - flies will soon be free!
 there's a dawn for ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.
 in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.



In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
 From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,
 In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,



un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.
 un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.
 un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

Natalie Sleeth composed her "Hymn of Promise" first as a choral anthem and then adapted it to this version for congregational singing. It was dedicated to her husband, Ronald Sleeth, who died shortly after she completed it.

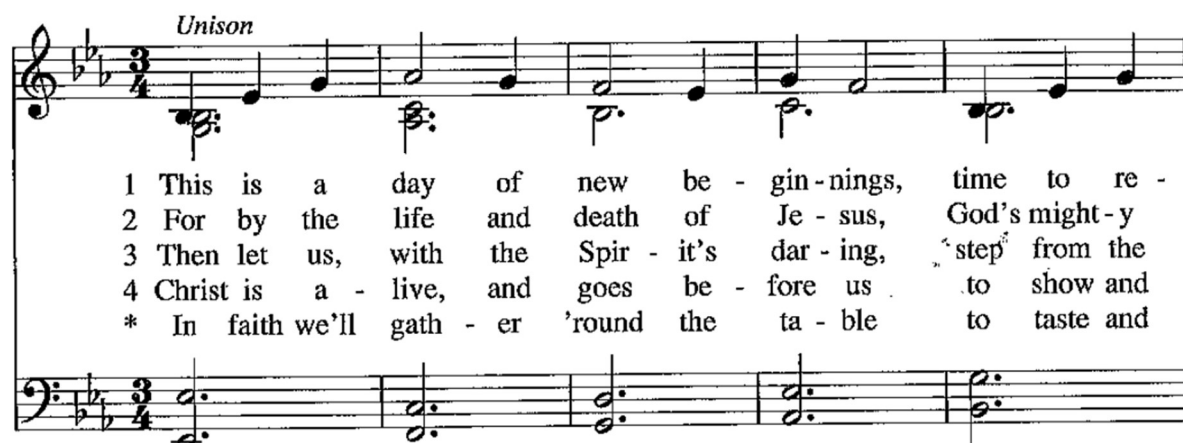
Tune: PROMISE 8.7.8.7.D.
 Natalie Sleeth, 1985

This Is a Day of New Beginnings

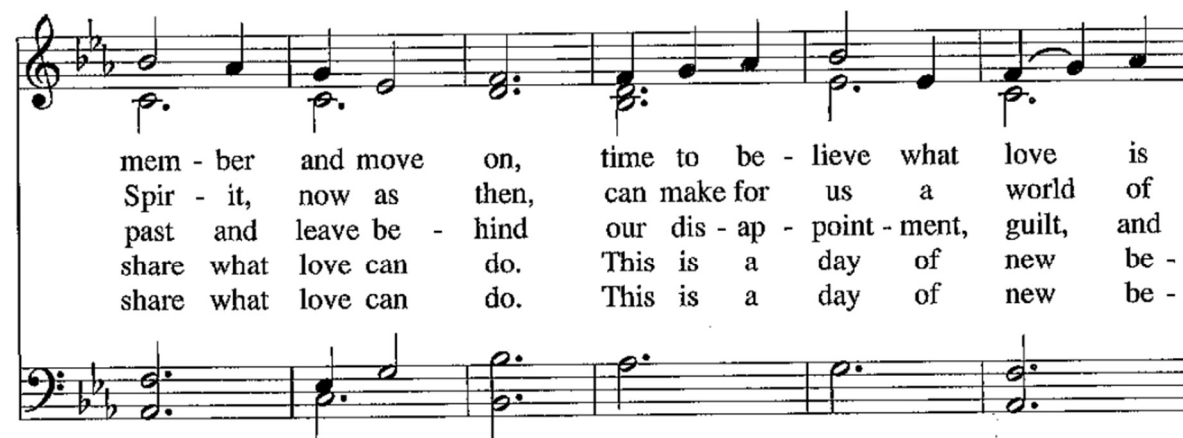
2 Cor. 5:16-17

Brian Wren, 1978; rev. 1983

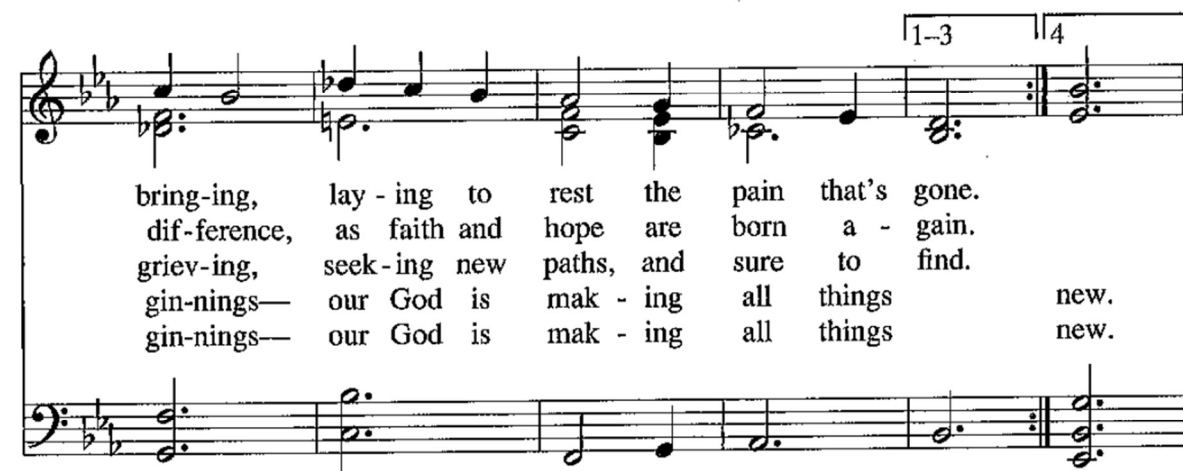
Unison



1 This is a day of new be - gin - nings, time to re -
 2 For by the life and death of Je - sus, God's might - y
 3 Then let us, with the Spir - it's dar - ing, 'step' from the
 4 Christ is a - live, and goes be - fore us to show and
 * In faith we'll gath - er 'round the ta - ble to taste and



mem - ber and move on, time to be - lieve what love is
 Spir - it, now as then, can make for us a world of
 past and leave be - hind our dis - ap - point - ment, guilt, and
 share what love can do. This is a day of new be -
 share what love can do. This is a day of new be -



bring - ing, lay - ing to rest the pain that's gone.
 dif - ference, as faith and hope are born a - gain.
 griev - ing, seek - ing new paths, and sure to find.
 gin - nings— our God is mak - ing all things new.
 gin - nings— our God is mak - ing all things new.

*Alternate fourth stanza for Holy Communion

Brian Wren wrote this hymn in 1978 for a New Year's Day service in Oxford, England. The music is by the editor of two hymnals of the United Methodist Church and was composed for the original Wren text.

Tune: BEGINNINGS 9.8.9.8.
 Carlton R. Young, 1987