



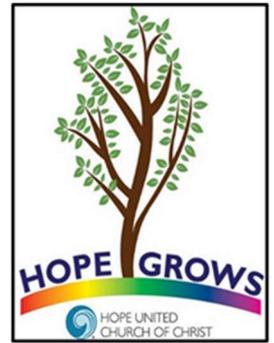
Prophet Miriam
by Pippa Blackall

Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL
Worship Bulletin September 13, 2020
Fifteenth 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 *How Great Thou Art* - Boberg/Hine

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Tremble, O earth, at the presence of God. Let us remember God's marvelous works.

Many: Surely God has saved us in difficult times. How can we forget God's guiding hand?

One: When evil surrounds us and we have been wronged, God helps us turn the evil to good.

Many: We need not be afraid whatever happens. We are in God's care wherever we go.

One: Sing the praises of God, our strength. Know that God is majestic and holy.

Many: How great is God's mercy for all who worship! We sense among us God's kindness and patience.

INVITING GOD INTO OUR MIDST

Majestic God, who led our spiritual ancestors with a pillar of cloud that hid them by day and protected them by night, lead us through the threatening times in which we live. Save us from the floods of our own misplaced trust, as you saved them from the waters of the sea and the weapons of their pursuers. On this day, grant strength to those who are weak and support for all who are stumbling. Let every tongue praise you as we give account to you of our deeds. Amen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We bow before your judgement seat, O God. We have ranked our sisters and brothers by the faulty standards of our society to decide who is worthy of our attention. We have rejected those whom we dislike and have been harsh with those we think do not measure up. We have been quite willing to overlook our own faults as we look down on other people. O God, you have shown us a better way. Save us from the pain we inflict and help us to discover the blessing of forgiveness. 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 *10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)* - Redman

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 14:19-31, 15:20-21

¹⁹The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. ²⁰It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

²¹Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. ²²The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ²³The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. ²⁴At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. ²⁵He clogged[£] their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

²⁶Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." ²⁷So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. ²⁸The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. ²⁹But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

³⁰Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

²⁰Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. ²¹And Miriam sang to them:

"Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;
horse and rider he has thrown into the sea."

SERMON

INVITATION TO OFFERING

We are indebted to the Creator for all we have and for the precious gift of life itself. Nothing we can do will ever begin to repay this debt. Therefore, with gratitude, we extend to others the gracious acceptance and generosity we have experienced. Let us thank God with our offerings.

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

We honor you, O God, as we give. We know we do not live or die to ourselves but are a part of a large community, linked in ways beyond our knowing with you and all generations of your children. We are accountable to you and share in responsibility for one another and for the care of this planet. Thus, we dedicate our resources and our lives to you for the work of your realm. Receive our gifts and draw us to yourself. Amen.

COMMUNION LITURGY

WELCOME

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

One: Holy God...

Many: Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God!

Hosanna in the highest!

REMEMBER

CONSECRATION

One: Let us pray...

Many: In the strength Christ gives us, we offer ourselves to you, eternal God, and give thanks that you have called us to serve you. Amen

BREAKING BREAD AND POURING THE CUP

SHARING HOLY COMMUNION

*The sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated through an open table at Hope UCC. All are invited to share this holy meal. Plates with bread and trays with cups will be passed to each pew by the ushers. Please take a piece of bread and a cup as the plates as you pass the plate/tray down your pew. We will eat the bread and drink the cup at the pastor's invitation. **The cups on the outer ring of each tray are filled with wine, all other cups are grape juice.***

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our savior. Amen

BENEDICTION

One: We have observed this day to honor God. God's promises go with us as we depart.

Many: God upholds us and helps us to stand. We are grateful that God strengthens our faith.

One: We do not live or die to ourselves. Christ has claimed us and offered us life.

Many: From Christ, we have learned to forgive. We have been taught to value every person.

One: Let every knee bow daily before our God. Let every tongue give praise to the Almighty.

Many: God helps us turn evil into good. Every day we can know God's loving presence. Amen

POSTLUDE *Lord I Lift Your Name on High* - Founds

Used by Permission. CCLI License #11387335

Announcements

Parking Lot Services

Beginning Sunday, September 20th, Hope UCC will hold outdoor worship services in the back parking lot (weather permitting). People will park and place their chairs at the end of their cars or in the grassy areas; those that park in front can bring chairs and sit in the Memorial Garden or other grassy areas. The parking spaces are 8 feet wide which allows for the safe spacing between seating areas. All in attendance must wear masks during the service and while on church grounds. We will take reservations so we know who will be in attendance. The same safety rules that apply in the building apply outside during this service- properly worn masks and social distancing are required. Services will continue to be livestreamed from this outdoor space

Diaper Collection

Our friends at Church of Peace UCC in Rock Island hold a weekly food pantry, serving hundreds of our Rock Island County neighbors. Not only are nutritious food items available, they also provide hygiene items. There is a great need for diapers and Hope UCC can help! Please consider donating a pack or two of diapers for their pantry – all sizes are needed but there is a high need for sizes 5 & 6. You can drop them off in person at Hope UCC – office hours are Monday – Thursday, 9:00- 2:00. If the office is closed when you get there, please feel free to leave them by the front door – we'll be there soon to bring them in. This is an ongoing need so bring them whenever you can. Thank you for keeping Rock Island County baby bottoms dry and happy!