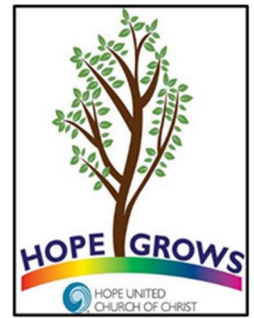




Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL
Worship Bulletin April 4, 2021
Easter Sunday

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 *The Strife is O'er* - arr. Smith (Mary Tallitsch Piano)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

One: Christ is risen!

Many: Christ is risen indeed!

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: This is a great and joyous festival day. Come to celebrate amazing good news.

Many: We gather for worship in awe and wonder. The tomb is empty; death is not the last word.

One: Sing songs of praise, for God is good. God's steadfast love endures forever.

Many: God has answered our prayers with salvation. Jesus Christ is alive and we, too, shall live.

One: Open your hearts and minds to the risen Christ. You are greeted by name and welcomed here.

Many: This is the day that our God has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

One: This is the day of new beginnings, for Christ is risen.

Many: Christ is risen indeed!

OPENING HYMN #233 Christ the Lord is Risen Today

INVITING GOD INTO OUR MIDST

We greet the dawning brightness of this special day with hopes renewed. We have known grief and sorrow, loss and tears, fear and failure. Meet us here, living Christ, for we need this time of resurrection. We need your healing presence. We need your word of greeting that welcomes us into the community of faith in spite of our doubts and faithlessness. You are the Great Teacher. We have come to learn from you. We want to be your disciples. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We cannot truly worship you, loving God, until we recognize how unliving we have been. We cannot truly live until we admit the many ways we have been dwelling in death. We cannot know forgiveness until we honestly face the wrong we have done and the good we have neglected. We admit before you now the anger and spite we have carried in our hearts, the doubts and fears we have allowed to paralyze us, the misplaced priorities that have led us away from your will and way. Help us break down the barriers we have erected so we can experience new life today. In Jesus' name. 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 *Jesus Christ is Risen Today* -arr. Blair (Meg Thompson Trumpet)

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.

Psalms 118: 1-2, 14-24 *Alleluia*

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

John 20:1-18

¹Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ²So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." ³Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰Then the disciples returned to their homes.

¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look[£] into the tomb; ¹²and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." ¹⁴When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." ¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew,[£] "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

SERMON "Easter Blessings"

SPECIAL MUSIC *I Know That My Redeemer Liveth* - arr. Decesare (Meg Thompson Trumpet)

INVITATION TO OFFERING

When we have seen the Christ, that makes all the difference in our view of life. When we have encountered life, we can no longer pursue that ways of death. When we realize how much we have received from a loving God, our gratitude pours forth in eagerness to share good news with the world. *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 consecrate all we have brought to share, that the message of today may spread through the streets and across the lands, beginning within these walls and bursting out for all the world to hear and observe. May the glad songs motivate practical ministries. As forgiven and forgiving people, we take new life into the marketplace, into our jobs and schools, into our social life and leisure hours. May all we offer express true thankfulness. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

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.

REMEMBER

CONSECRATION

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.

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: In Christ, we have been rescued from death. At the cross, we have learned the cost of true love.

Many: In Jesus, we have observed courage and faithfulness. At the empty tomb, we have met the power of Love.

One: Continue to sing the glad songs of victory. Dare to live the welcoming message of God's grace.

Many: Christ has appeared to us in the joy of this day. We have been empowered to reach out to others.

One: The One who was rejected holds the key to life. The key of unconditional love is passed on to us.

Many: We have seen the risen Christ, and we are changed. We have been chosen as witnesses to resurrection. Amen.

POSTLUDE *Thine is the Glory* - arr. Blair (Meg Thompson Trumpet)

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EASTER

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Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Matt. 28:5-8; 1 Cor. 15:20-22; 54-57

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.

1 Christ the Lord is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 Let the Vic - tor's peo - ple sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - le - lu - ia!

Mor - tal tongues and an - gels say: Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where, O death, is now your sting? Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head, Al - le - lu - ia!

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Dy - ing once, Christ lives to save, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Death in vain for - bids Christ rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Al - le - lu - ia!

Sing, glad heavens, and earth re - ply: Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where your vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!
 God has o - pened par - a - dise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - le - lu - ia!

The unknown editor of Lyra Davidica wanted music with more movement and spirit than found in the grave, slow-paced psalm tunes, with one note to a syllable. Easter Hymn was among the first of a new popular style.

Tune: EASTER HYMN 7.7.7.7, with alleluias
 Arr. from Lyra Davidica, London, 1708