



Hope UCC Weekly Update: November 28, 2021

There is always something happening at Hope UCC, so we thought we would add a weekly announcement feature to the bulletin that is mailed and emailed out to everyone. This Weekly Update will provide you with announcements, information, and updates on all that is going on in our community – at church and beyond.

Advent Workshop at Hope UCC: Saturday, November 27 at 9:00-11:00 A.M.

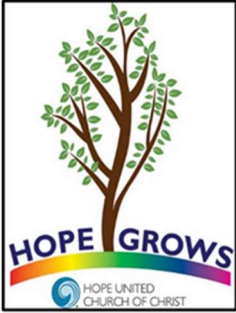
Breakfast treats, crafts and activities for families of one and families of many. All are welcome as we begin the Advent season together! Call or email for more info: 309-762-1419 or office.hopeuccqc@gmail.com. www.hopeuccqc.org

NEW DATE: An Illustrated Faith: Deepening Our Spiritual Journey through Creative Journaling Saturday, December 4 at 3:30-5:00 P.M.

Families of one and families of many are invited to join Rev. Lisa Gaston as she leads us in this spiritual practice using the Christmas biblical texts as our focus scriptures. No artistic background or experience needed! This is a fun and meaningful time together designed for all ages to share together, so please bring the children in your life. Childcare available for children under the age of 5. Please rsvp to the Hope UCC office: office.hopeuccqc@gmail.com or 309-762-1419

Advent-at-Home Kits

Please make sure you pick up your 2021 Advent-at-Home Kit following worship on Sunday, November 28. We will deliver kits to members and friends unable to attend worship on Sunday. Delivery will be Monday, November 29.



Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL
Worship Bulletin November 28, 2021
First Sunday of Advent: "Hope"

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!*



***Those who are able, please stand**

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT WREATH LITANY offered by members of Trustees Ministry

Many: Faithful God, out of death you bring life. Renew us in hope, that we may be alert to the burgeoning of Christ's advent among us. God of promise, God of hope, into our darkness come.

Hymn: *He Came Down (hope)*

He came down that we may have hope;

He came down that we may have hope;

He came down that we may have hope,

Hallelujah forevermore.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Our promised salvation is at hand.

Many: A righteous branch has sprung forth, bringing hope to our world.

One: Our eyes have beheld the goodness and mercy of the Lord.

Many: A Son has been given to us, bringing justice and virtue to our land.

One: Our hearts have felt the stirrings of God's presence.

Many: The Spirit of truth is here, opening our eyes to God's ways. Let us worship the God of our salvation.

***OPENING HYMN #122 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus** (see end of bulletin)

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION/INVITING GOD INTO OUR MIDST**

Holy God, in the darkness of our world your light shines with grace and truth. Open the eyes of our hearts to the glory of your love. Speak your word of truth and joy. May the mystery revealed in Jesus draw us closer to you. May the wonder of your love fill us with wisdom and peace. As we rejoice in your presence, teach us to seek justice and righteousness. Fill our hearts to overflowing with your joy, your hope. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, your promises of old strengthen us during this time of waiting. Shine your love into the darkness of our lives. Preoccupied with ourselves, we forget the needs of others; we participate in systems that oppress; we accept violence as a way of life. May your love fall upon us and move us to act in ways of care and compassion so that we will see the beauty of your love within us so that we will grow into people who live as your children. 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 LESSON

Jeremiah 33:14-16

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men[£] from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising,[£] and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah[£] was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd[£] my people Israel.'"

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men[£] and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and

when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.”⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising,[£] until it stopped over the place where the child was.¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped,[£] they were overwhelmed with joy.¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

SERMON

SERMON HYMN *Star Child* (see end of bulletin)

INVITATION TO OFFERING

The magi paid homage to the child, offering gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. May we too bring the gifts of our lives and offer them in joy to Jesus Christ.

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

As the Magi long ago laid their gifts before the Christ child, we too bring our gifts with great joy. Use our gifts to bring the light of your love to our world so that suffering may end and all will rejoice in your gift of life. Amen.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

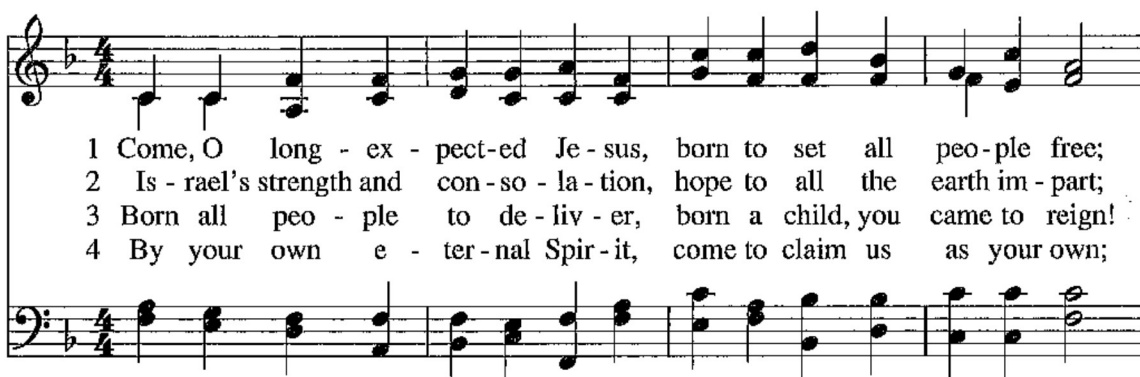
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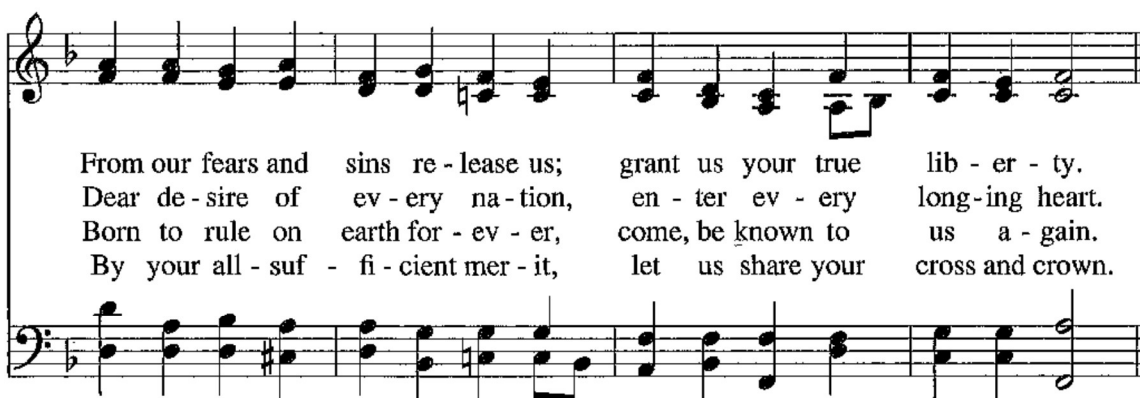
Come, O Long-Expected Jesus

122

Charles Wesley, 1744; alt.



1 Come, O long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set all peo - ple free;
 2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope to all the earth im - part;
 3 Born all peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, you came to reign!
 4 By your own e - ter - nal Spir - it, come to claim us as your own;



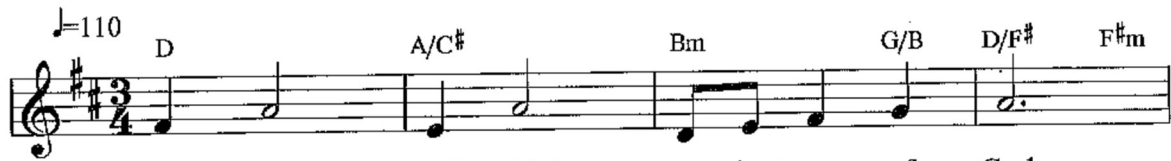
From our fears and sins re - lease us; grant us your true lib - er - ty.
 Dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, en - ter ev - ery long-ing heart.
 Born to rule on earth for - ev - er, come, be known to us a - gain.
 By your all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, let us share your cross and crown.

Charles Wesley, the brother of John, was one of the students known as "Methodists" at Oxford University. He wrote hymns for every occasion. This is from his small collection Hymns for the Nativity.

Tune: STUTTGART 8.7.8.7.
 Melody attrib. to Christian F. Witt (1660-1716)
 from Psalmodia Sacra, Gotha, 1715
 Alternate tune: IN BABILONE

Star-Child

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1. Star - Child, earth - Child go - be-tween of God,
 2. Street child, beat child, no place left to go,
 3. Grown child, old child, mem-ory full of years,
 4. Spared child, spoiled child, hav-ing, want-ing more,
 5. Hope - for - peace Child, God's stu-pen-dous sign,



- love Child, Christ Child, heav-en's light - ning rod.
 hurt child, used child, no one wants to know.
 sad child, lost child, sto - ry told in tears.
 wise child, faith child, know-ing joy in store.
 down - to - earth Child, Star of stars that shine.

Chorus



This year, this year, let the day ar - rive when



Christ-mas comes for ev - ery-one, ev - ery-one a - live!