



## **Hope UCC Weekly Update: September 18, 2022**

*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.*

### **Pickleball Extravaganza Fundraiser: This Saturday, September 17 at 10:00A.M.!!**

Get ready to have a fun Saturday morning full of fellowship, laughter, cheering, some good clean competition, and of course, tasty food on Saturday, September 17th at Hope UCC. We happen to have a Pickleball Pro in our congregation – Caridad Ramos – and she and her Pickleball Pals are organizing this fun event as a fundraiser in support the next Youth Group Service Learning Trip. The events of the day will include an exciting Pickleball demonstration, lessons, an exhibition game, lunch, and baked goods. A free will donation gets you a courtside seat and if you would like lunch, tickets for a delicious meal are \$5. There will be a variety of baked goods available for sale. Also, as soon as we figure out how the scoring works in Pickleball, we may even have the opportunity to make a ‘donation’ based on who you think will be victorious in the exhibition game. The Youth Group will be there serving lunch and will be part of the exhibition game as they challenge the Pickleball Pros. We are converting the rear parking lot into a Pickleball stadium and a great time is guaranteed – even if you’ve never heard of Pickleball before! By the time this event is over, you will definitely know what all the fuss is about and why this game is getting so popular for players of all ages and abilities!

### **Welcome Dr. Sharon Varallo!**

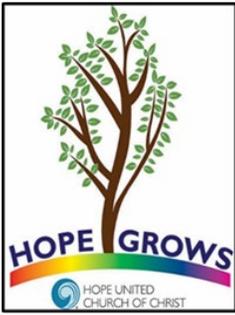
Today we welcome Dr. Sharon Varallo to Hope UCC and learn more about the Augustana Prison Education Program. Sharon Varallo is a professor of Communication Studies and the executive director of the Augustana Prison Education Program (APEP). Dr. Varallo both teaches in and coordinates APEP, the grant-funded B.A. degree program to Augustana students incarcerated in the East Moline Correctional Center. Her academic interests include the study of higher education in prison, intercultural competence, cultural approaches to time, family communication, and social action research methods. During her career, she has published work on the scholarship of teaching and learning and on interpersonal and family communication topics. Dr. Varallo has thoroughly enjoyed teaching, learning and accompanying students on six continents in numerous off-campus programs (including in China, Japan, Peru, Brazil, Mexico, Guatemala, Spain, Morocco, India, Australia and the wilderness of Holden Village). Dr. Varallo will speak during worship and will be available following worship for questions.

### **All Church Service Trip: September 24!**

All ages are welcome to join Mission & Outreach as we travel to Aurora to serve at Feed My Starving Children. We will meet at Hope UCC at 9:45 a.m. and carpool to the worksite in Aurora, have lunch and then begin our shift that begins at 2:00 and concludes at 3:45. There are jobs for everyone, whether you are able to stand for the entire shift or need to sit while you help. This is a wonderful opportunity for our love for others to be shared out in the world. The food we help pack on this trip will be sent to one of the many partner organizations Feed My Starving Children works with as they help bring nutritious meals to areas facing food insecurity which is, sadly, an ever-increasing crisis due to war, climate crisis, and disease. Join us to serve together, living out our call to love God and love others. **Sign up by calling the church office or seeing Barb Hawotte following worship.** Any questions? Please see Pastor Santina or any of the members of the M&O Ministry team: Barb, Jenny Hookey, Donna Werner, Kathy Hobson, Sue Grchan, Brian Williams, Ginny Anderson.

**Blessing Box Donations**

Thank you for your ongoing support with donations. Please keep it coming. This week's needs include: individual applesauce and fruit cups, dental floss, canned chicken.



**Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL  
Worship Bulletin September 18, 2022  
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!*



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

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

**One:** God welcomes those whose hearts are sick. God's invitation comes to people whose joy is gone.

**Many:** **Why is the health of God's people not restored? Why must we weep day and night for those we have lost?**

**One:** There is a balm in Gilead. There is a physician who heals. Jesus Christ is our mediator, healer, and savior.

**Many:** **We bring all our pain and unresolved anger. We come in all our confusion to seek answers.**

**One:** Bring all your urgent prayers and honest laments. God is eager to offer salvation and open us to truth.

**Many:** **We cry out to God for deliverance from our sin. We cry out for relief from our suffering.**

**\*OPENING HYMN #565 God Whose Giving Knows No Ending (see end of bulletin)**

**\*INVITING GOD INTO OUR MIDST**

**Into this holy temple, we have come, gracious God. This is not our church but yours. We cannot claim our world; it is a trust from your hand. Our lives, our health, our length of days call forth our stewardship. We are managers, not owners, so we come to you now to give account and seek your further commands. Help us, O God of our salvation. Amen.**

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**O God, we have not managed well the wealth of the earth, which is our trust from you. We have modified your commands to suit our own egos and desires. We have wasted resources while hoarding for our own use what is meant for all to enjoy. Our concerns are narrow and our compassion is weak. We are restless and unfulfilled for we have not tried your ways. For give us, we pray, and lead us into your new day.**

**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.**

SPECIAL MUSIC *There Is a Balm in Gilead* arr. Linker/McFadden Hope UCC Handbell Choir

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

18 My joy is gone; grief is upon me; my heart is sick. 19 Listen! The cry of the daughter of my people from far and wide in the land: "Is the Lord not in Zion? Is her King not in her?" ("Why have they provoked me to anger with their images, with their foreign idols?") 20 "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." 21 For the brokenness of the daughter of my people I am broken, I mourn, and horror has seized me. 22 Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has the health of the daughter of my people not been restored? O that my head were a spring of water and my eyes a fountain of tears, so that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!

\*GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 25:31-41

31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, 33 and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. 34 Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, 35 for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' 37 Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? 38 And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? 39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' 40 And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.' 41 Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels,

SERMON Dr. Sharon Varallo

SERMON HYMN #553 *There Is a Balm in Gilead* (see end of bulletin)

## INVITATION TO OFFERING

As managers for God of the world's resources, we share the hurt of those who are poor, sick, and in mourning. Our wealth is meant to bring good news to them in Jesus' name. We invest in the church's outreach, that our money may serve God, not trap us in idolatry.

*Hope UCC thanks you for the gifts you share with this congregation. Your offering enables us to live into our mission. Offering plates are located near the Sanctuary doors.*

## UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**We give, loving God, because of your generosity to us. We share because this is your will for us. In faithfulness to your call, we seek to manage the resources you provide for the greatest benefit to humankind. May they bring a bit closer an awareness of your intentions for us and your rule among us. We worship and serve you with all we have. Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

**One: God has delivered and blessed us here. God will assist us every day as we are open to God's help.**

**Many: We will look to God for guidance and direction. We will seek God's truth for every situation.**

**One: We are invited to pray for others each day. When we intercede for them, we draw closer to God.**

**Many: We will be sensitive to others' pain and joys. We will respond in the spirit of Jesus Christ.**

**One: Seek to be faithful in all things, great and small. Acknowledge God's ownership of all you possess.**

**Many: We seek to be honest managers and generous stewards. We are grateful servants of a loving God. Amen.**

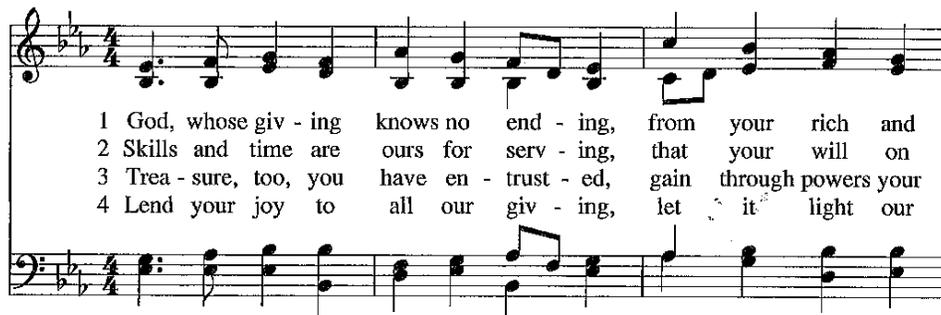
POSTLUDE #539 *Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant* (see end of bulletin)

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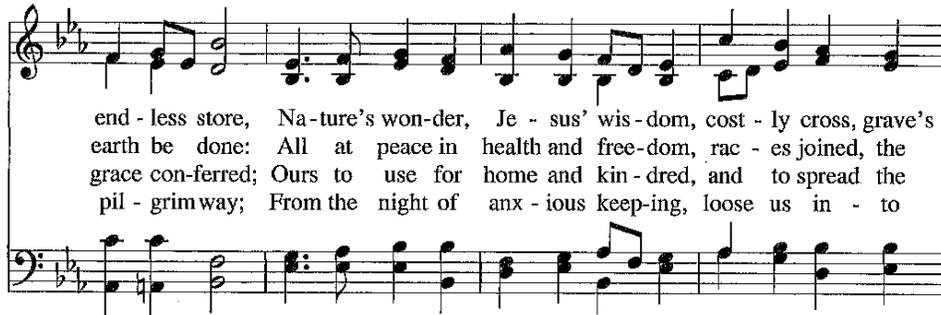
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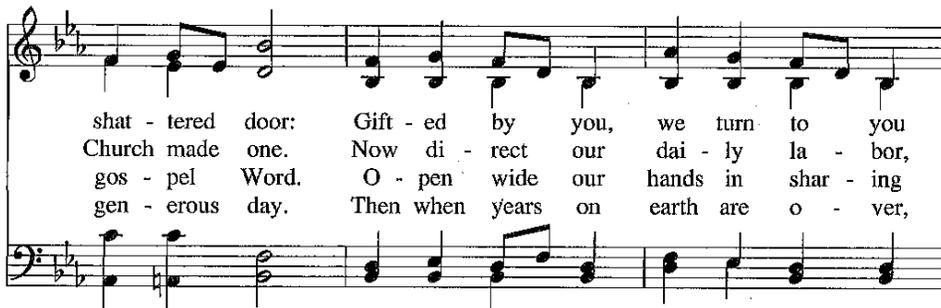
## God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

*Robert L. Edwards, 1961; alt.*


1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and  
2 Skills and time are ours for serv - ing, that your will on  
3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through powers your  
4 Lend your joy to all our giv - ing, let it light our



end - less store, Na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly cross, grave's  
earth be done: All at peace in health and free - dom, rac - es joined, the  
grace con - ferred; Ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to spread the  
pil - grim way; From the night of anx - ious keep - ing, loose us in - to



shat - tered door: Gift - ed by you, we turn to you  
Church made one. Now di - rect our dai - ly la - bor,  
gos - pel Word. O - pen wide our hands in shar - ing  
gen - erous day. Then when years on earth are o - ver,

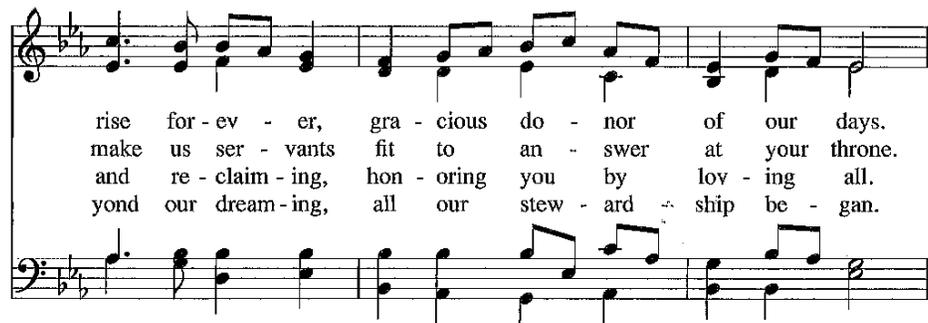


of - fering up our - selves in praise; Thank - ful song shall  
lest we strive for self a - lone; born with tal - ents,  
as we heed Christ's age - less call, Heal - ing, teach - ing,  
and we've lived our hu - man span, God, ful - fill be -

*Robert L. Edwards, an ordained United Church of Christ minister, has served several churches in Connecticut. He wrote this text for a competition of The Hymn Society, and it was subsequently published in Ten New Stewardship Hymns in 1961.*

Tune: AUSTRIAN HYMN 8.7.8.7.D.  
*Franz Joseph Haydn, 1797*  
Alternate tune: HYFRYDOL

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rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.  
make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.  
and re - claim - ing, hon - oring you by lov - ing all.  
yond our dream - ing, all our stew - ard - ship be - gan.

553

## There Is a Balm in Gilead

*Jer. 8:18-22; 46:11; Acts 10:34-43**African-American spiritual; alt.*

*Refrain*

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad, to make the wound-ed whole,

there is a balm in Gil-e-ad, to heal the sin-sick soul.

*Last time, end*

1 Some - times I feel dis - cour-aged, and think my work's in vain,  
 2 Don't ev - er feel dis - cour-aged, for Je - sus is your friend,  
 3 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can - not pray like Paul,

*to Refrain*

But then the Ho - ly Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.  
 who, if you ask for knowl-edge, will nev - er fail to lend.  
 you can tell the love of Je - sus, who died to save us all.

*This is one of the most moving of the African-American spirituals because it illustrates the way in which the enslaved tried to encourage those who were feeling especially weighed down by the burden of their captivity.*

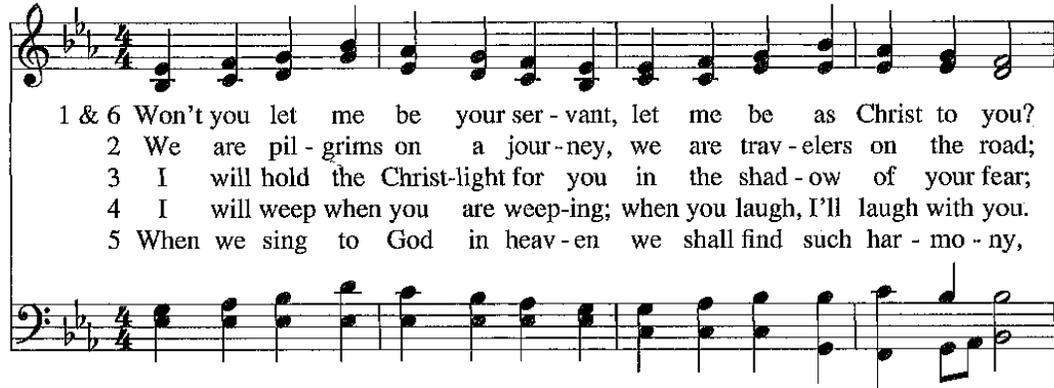
Tune: BALM IN GILEAD Irr. with refrain  
*African-American spiritual*

# Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?

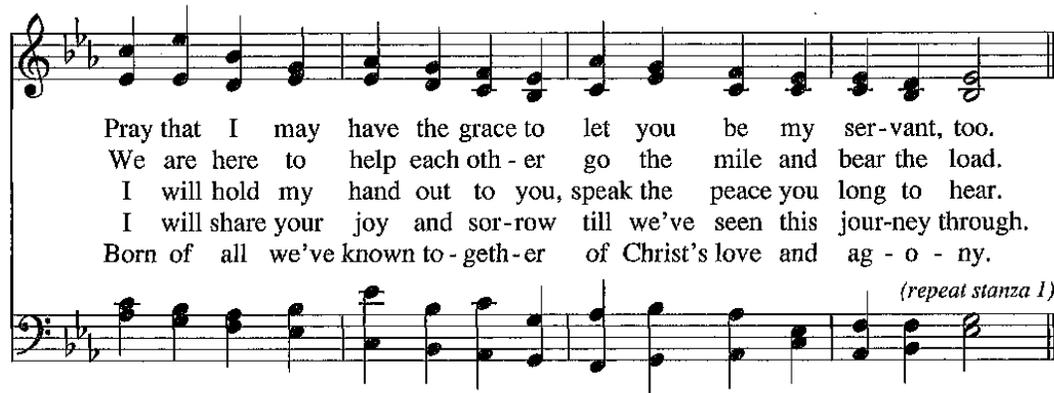
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Richard Gillard, 1977; alt.

Rom. 12:9-18; Col. 1:24-29



1 & 6 Won't you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as Christ to you?  
 2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - elers on the road;  
 3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the shad - ow of your fear;  
 4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.  
 5 When we sing to God in heav - en we shall find such har - mo - ny,



Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my ser - vant, too.  
 We are here to help each oth - er go the mile and bear the load.  
 I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.  
 I will share your joy and sor - row till we've seen this jour - ney through.  
 Born of all we've known to - geth - er of Christ's love and ag - o - ny.

(repeat stanza 1)

Richard Gillard was born in England and later made his home in New Zealand. Largely self-taught, Gillard has described his musical style as "folk." This is the best known of his many songs in the United States.

Tune: SERVANT SONG 8.7.8.7.  
 Richard Gillard, 1977  
 Arr. Betty Carr Pulkingham, 1977; adapt.