



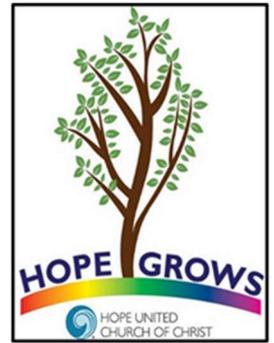
*Wisdom*  
by Ayibiowu Olusola David

**Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL**  
**Worship Bulletin September 6, 2020**  
**Fourteenth 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 *Elegy* - Ritter

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Tell the whole congregation of God's people: This is a day for new beginnings.

**Many: This is a time of God's appearing. This is the moment for faithful response.**

One: Praise God in the assembly of the faithful. Make melody to God and sing a new song.

**Many: Praise God for life enriched by love. Praise God for love that fulfills God's law.**

One: This is the hour to wake from our sleep. The energy of God's love fills this place.

**Many: Here we claim our identity as Christians. Here we become the church of Jesus Christ.**

INVITING GOD INTO OUR MIDST

**This is a festival day, glorious God, a day of remembering your faithfulness through the centuries, a time for celebrating your vibrant presence with us, a pause of anticipation for the seasons yet to be. We rejoice at the assurance that you take pleasure in us, that we are known by you, called by you, empowered by you to live honorably and humbly, in the spirit of Christ. We would exalt your name and sing for joy, knowing that we can trust you for the guidance and direction we need. Amen**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God, we have not been faithful to your commands. We have been more ready to condemn than to console, more eager to justify ourselves than to work for understanding. We feed the flames of dissent instead of welcoming the freeing power of forgiveness. We gather as two or three, not to welcome your presence but to gossip about those who are absent. Our sins are destroying us, God. Turn us around to a new way of being. 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 *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying* - Medema

## 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 12:1-14

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: <sup>2</sup>This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. <sup>3</sup>Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. <sup>4</sup>If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. <sup>5</sup>Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. <sup>6</sup>You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. <sup>7</sup>They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. <sup>8</sup>They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. <sup>9</sup>Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. <sup>10</sup>You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. <sup>11</sup>This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. <sup>12</sup>For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. <sup>13</sup>The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. <sup>14</sup>This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

SERMON "Passover Promises"

## INVITATION TO OFFERING

Our Hebrew ancestors offered the best of their flocks and crops to honor God. We bring symbols of our labor, dedicating them and ourselves to upholding the highest values of human life. May our offerings be a joyous expression of worship.

*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](http://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

May these offerings help to free your people, O God, from bondage to sin. Unite us in a community of mutual caring in which differences are resolved as we listen to one another and seek to offer understanding. May the light of your love shine through all our efforts to share your good news. Keep us in the light when we are tempted to ignore and violate your commandments. With these prayers, we dedicate our gifts. Amen.

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*(Please use whatever elements you have available for the bread and the cup)*

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.**

Holy God, we praise and bless you for creation and for your abiding love which brings us close to you, the source of all blessing. We thank you for creating us in your own image, for forgiving us when we act as though you have no claim on us, and for keeping us in your steadfast care. We rejoice in Jesus Christ, who shared the joys and sorrows of life as we know it. We remember Christ's death, we celebrate Christ's resurrection, and, as your church, we anticipate Christ's return. We take courage from your Holy Spirit and we offer you our praise for our sisters, brothers, and siblings of faith in every age who stand as witnesses to your love and justice. Together with all the company of heaven, we glorify you:

**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

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

Consecration

Let us pray: Gracious God, by your Holy Spirit, bless these gifts of bread and cup – each unique in their composition and location, and yet common through the Spirit that anoints these gifts. Bless us as we receive the bread and cup, that we will offer you our faith and praise, and that we will be united with Christ and with one another. Through this table of fellowship, make us the Body of Christ and may your Spirit strengthen us when we feel weak, warm us when we are cold-hearted, bend us when we are stubborn, move us when we are uncaring, guide us in the way of love. May we continue to be faithful in all things. As we eat and drink, may the elements be symbols that remind us who we are and whose we are. We ask all this in the name of the one who extends the invitation to us, your Son, Christ Jesus. Amen

Through the broken bread we participate in the body of Christ.

Through the cup of blessing we participate in the new life Christ gives.

Invitation & Sharing Holy Communion

This is the table, not of the church, but of Jesus Christ. It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more. All are welcome. Come to the table because it is Jesus Christ who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here. Please join this feast in the spirit of joy and gratitude. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

Take and eat, Christ's body given for you.

Take and drink, the cup of blessing.

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 are God's servants, sent on a mission. Let us make God's seeds known among the people.

**Many: We will ready ourselves to go where God sends us. High praises to God will be in our throats.**

One: Owe no one anything, except to love one another. Keep the commandments God has given.

**Many: "Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light."**

One: God grants victory over sin to the humble. Rejoice, for God takes pleasure in us.

**Many: Where two or three gather, God is with us. We seek to live honorably in the spirit of Christ. Amen**

POSTLUDE *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* - arr. Labenske

## Announcements

### **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!

### **Worship Together Outdoors in the Park! September 13 at 10:00 A.M.**

Hope UCC's Worship and Music Ministry is planning a special way to celebrate the beginning of our new program year with our annual Kick Off Sunday worship together, in person, outdoors at Phipps Prairie Park in Silvis. For the health and safety of everyone, we will continue to follow all CDC and State of Illinois health and safety guidelines for this gathering – properly worn masks covering mouth and nose and social distancing will be required for attendance. Please bring a chair (although there are a few picnic tables available for seating). If you would like to stay for lunch, please bring your own lunch (we are unable to have a potluck at this time due to safety concerns). We completely understand and support your decision if you choose not to attend in person. It is important that you make the decisions that are best for you and your family! We will livestream the worship service in order to make sure anyone not able to attend in person can join us virtually via technology. ☺

Phipps Prairie Park is located at the end of 12<sup>th</sup> Street (off of Avenue of the Cities) in Silvis. Bring your walking shoes so that you can enjoy the many hiking trails that are available there on a post-worship walk. Any questions? Please contact the church office: 309-762-1419 or office.hopeuccqc@gmail.com. We are looking forward to starting our new program year with a joyful, and safely masked and distanced, gathering.