



Hope UCC Weekly Update: February 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.

Congregational Sympathy

Congregational love and sympathy is extended to Judy Piper upon the death of her beloved husband Jerry. Jerry passed away peacefully on Wednesday, February 17. Our love and prayers are lifted for Judy and her family in this time of loss.

Wednesday Night Reflections during Lent

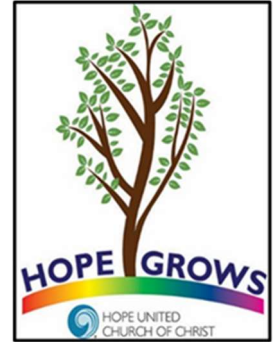
Please join Pastor Santina each Wednesday evening during Lent for a time of prayer and reflection. Each week we will explore a Psalm through word, prayer, and song. Each reflection will be livestreamed on Facebook Live at 7:00 p.m. and will be available to be viewed at your convenience on Hope UCC's You Tube channel. These short mid-week services are meant to be casual and comfortable. Please let the church office know if you would like to attend in person. All Covid safety precautions will be in place: properly worn masks and safe social distancing are required for in person attendance. Thank you for faithfully helping to keep each other safe and healthy.



*Sarah and Isaac,
from **Art in the Christian Tradition**,
a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.*

**Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL
Worship Bulletin February 28, 2021
Second Sunday in Lent**

*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 *Jesus Paid it All* - Hayes

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING MEDITATION: *(Please light your candle at home; 5 candles are lit in the sanctuary)*

On Sunday morning, for a brief space of time, we leave behind the world of home and work and school—the world where we have our lists of things to do, activities to participate in, tasks to complete. We come here this morning seeking something else. We come here seeking a shift—from the ordinary to the sacred, from doing to being. I invite you to close your eyes. Let go of your list. Recall that it is the season of Lent. Remember the parable of the sower. The sower throws the seed . . . and where it lands determines if it will grow or not grow. Think of it this way: think of the season of Lent as the sower, the time when seeds of faith are thrown with special intensity, as a time a time when God calls to us in a low, urgent voice. Listen. Jesus is being drawn to Jerusalem. Where is God calling you to? What is God calling you to do?

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We are invited to walk with God. We are welcomed by God as people of the covenant.

Many: How awesome to stand in the presence of our Creator! We bring our praise to glorify God.

One: God calls us by name and gives us new names. We are summoned to faithfulness and fruitfulness.

Many: God not only speaks to us but also listens. God hears our cries and meets our need.

One: Let the ends of the earth remember and turn to God. Let the families of all nations worship the Creator.

Many: We will pay our vows to the One who calls us. We praise the God of all nations and all peoples.

INVITING GOD INTO OUR MIDST

In trust and confidence, we call on your name, almighty God, eager to know you more fully and serve you more faithfully. We have heard your amazing promises given to our ancestors in the faith. We seek your word for us in our day, for we want to grow strong in our faith as our ancestors did in theirs. As they gave you glory and praise, we gather to do the same. As they

passed on their faith to new generations, we seek to teach and live in such a way that our children and their children will be drawn to minister in your name. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of our ancestors, we come to you, confessing that we have set our minds on human things. We have sought to gain the world—so many things to buy, so many things to do. Yet we are not satisfied. Life’s meaning eludes us. Your ways seem out of date; your promises appear as the hopes and dreams of a past generation. But in our hearts we sense an eternal design which is for all generations, a way of life more satisfying than we have allowed ourselves to explore. O God, we confess our need for you. 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 *Give Me Jesus* - arr. Camp

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

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am God Almighty;[£] walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.” ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴“As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram,[£] but your name shall be Abraham;[£] for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring[£] after you.

¹⁵God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

Psalm 22:23-31 *I will Praise the Lord – Hickl*

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Mark 8:31-38

³¹Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, [£] will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words[£] in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

SERMON “Changed Through Covenant”

SERMON HYMN #320 *Deep in the Shadows of the Past* (see end of bulletin)

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose themselves for Christ’s sake and for the gospel will be saved. We are invited to give all we have and all we are to the realization of God’s will among us. A portion of that we bring today as our offering.

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

Glorious God, we dedicate these gifts as an expression of our faith. You alone know how much we share and how much we withhold. You know the extent of our trust and the depth of our commitment. May this act of giving draw us closer to you and extend a blessing to all who are helped through our sharing. Amen.

CLOSING MEDITATION:

As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain of injury done to the Earth and its ecosystems. *(Please extinguish your candle at home; one candle is extinguished in the sanctuary)*

Let us pray:

All: Loving God, as we journey through this holy season of Lent, may we be open to your presence. Give us the strength to make the changes that are needed in our lives and the courage to take on the work of transforming the world. Amen.

BENEDICTION

One: Go forth with the voice of God calling your name.

Many: We go in the love of God.

One: Go forth to hear Christ claiming you as his own.

Many: We go in the mercy of Christ.

One: Go forth to follow where the Spirit sends you.

Many: We go in the power of the Holy Spirit.

One: Go forth, called, named and claimed by God.

POSTLUDE *Grateful* - Mark Hayes

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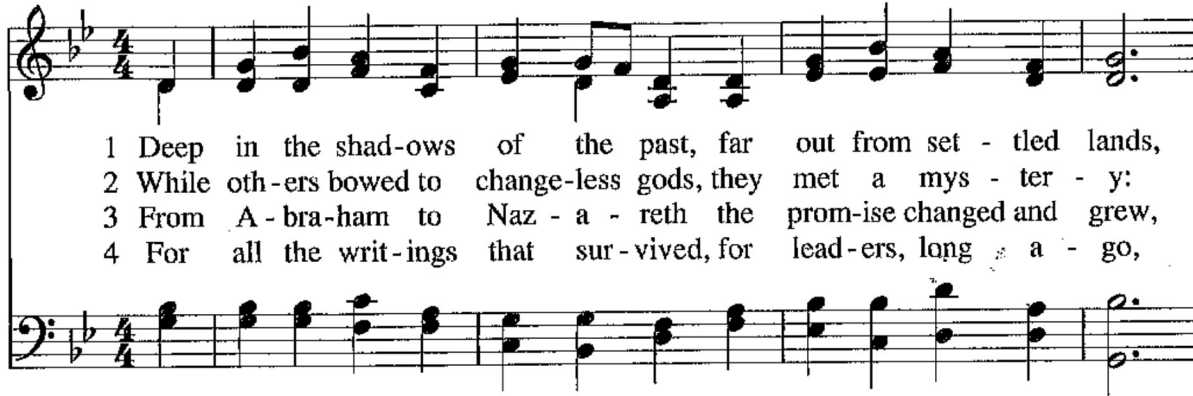
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Adapted from work created by Jeanyne Slettom on www.processandfaith.org/

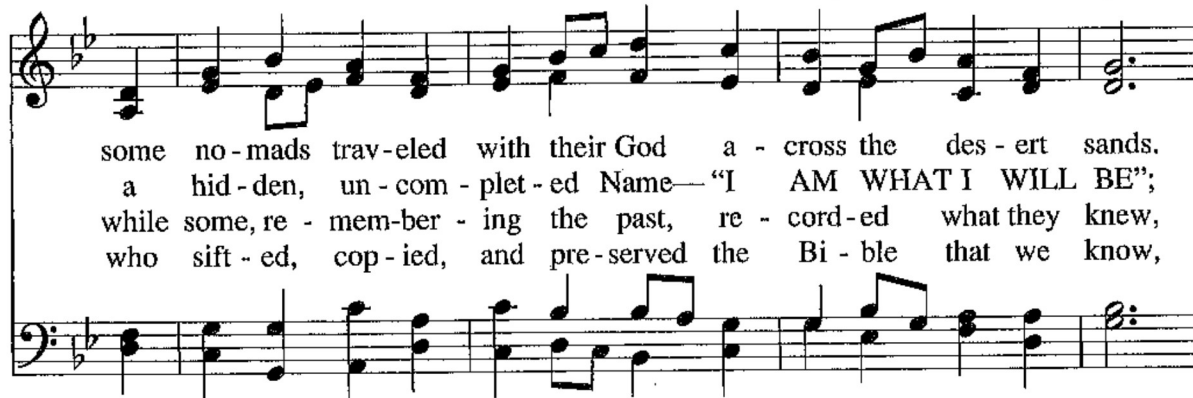
Deep in the Shadows of the Past

320

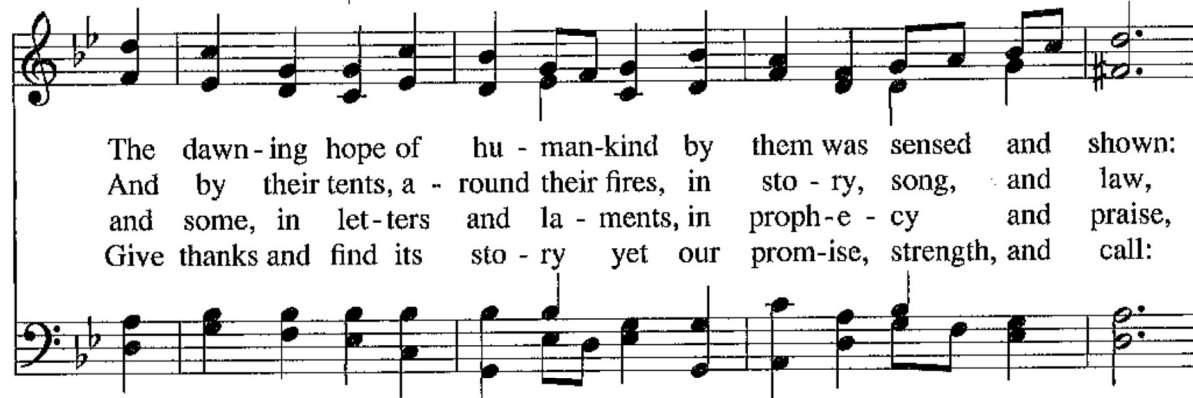
Brian Wren, 1973; rev. 1993



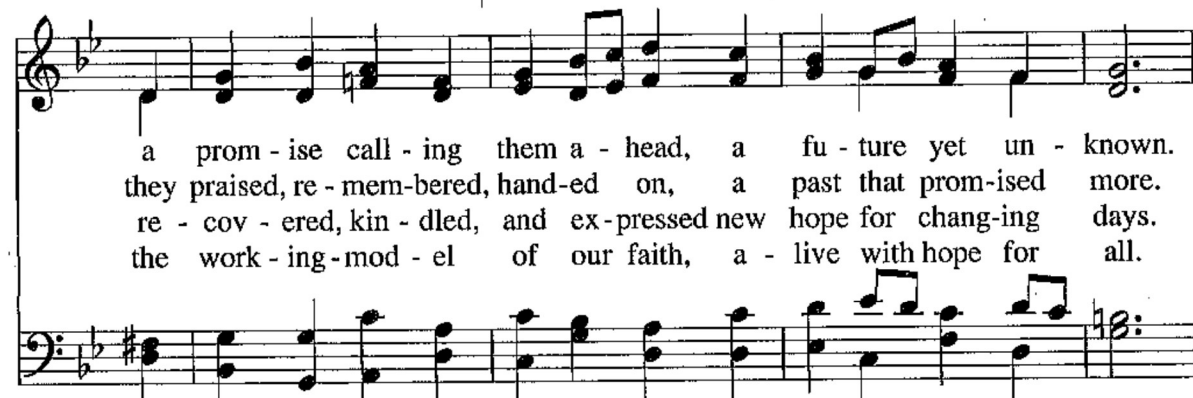
1 Deep in the shad-ows of the past, far out from set - tled lands,
 2 While oth - ers bowed to change-less gods, they met a mys - ter - y:
 3 From A - bra-ham to Naz - a - reth the prom-ise changed and grew,
 4 For all the writ-ings that sur - vived, for lead - ers, long a - go,



some no - mads trav - eled with their God a - cross the des - ert sands.
 a hid - den, un - com - plet - ed Name—"I AM WHAT I WILL BE";
 while some, re - mem - ber - ing the past, re - cord - ed what they knew,
 who sift - ed, cop - ied, and pre - served the Bi - ble that we know,



The dawn - ing hope of hu - man-kind by them was sensed and shown:
 And by their tents, a - round their fires, in sto - ry, song, and law,
 and some, in let - ters and la - ments, in proph - e - cy and praise,
 Give thanks and find its sto - ry yet our prom - ise, strength, and call:



a prom - ise call - ing them a - head, a fu - ture yet un - known.
 they praised, re - mem - bered, hand - ed on, a past that prom - ised more.
 re - cov - ered, kin - dled, and ex - pressed new hope for chang - ing days.
 the work - ing - mod - el of our faith, a - live with hope for all.

Brian Wren has commented: "The hymn tries to tell the story of the Bible in a manner acceptable to different beliefs about its inspiration." Wren credits James Barr's *The Bible in the Modern World* for the idea of the Bible as a "working-model" of our faith.

Tune: SHEPHERDS' PIPES C.M.D.
 Annabeth McClelland Gay, 1952