



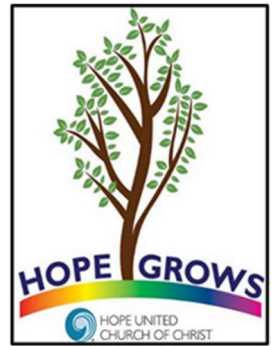
The Late-arriving Workers
by Jesus Mafa

Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL
Worship Bulletin September 20, 2020
Sixteenth 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 *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* - arr. Shackley

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Call on God with praise and thanksgiving. Tell of God's wonderful works.

Many: Today we open ourselves to God's presence. Let the hearts of all who seek God rejoice.

One: When we eat, we are reminded of God's provision. When we drink pure water, we give thanks.

Many: Surely God has blessed us with food and drink. Daily we are strengthened for tasks we face.

One: We are guided by God's laws and statutes. We benefit from God's generosity.

Many: Let all the people worship with joy! Let all whom God has chosen sing together!

INVITING GOD INTO OUR MIDST

Glory to your name, holy God. We rejoice in your wonderful works, in miracles you have caused among us, and in the wealth you have entrusted to our stewardship. You have called us to important work in your vineyard. Wherever we go, we represent your church and interpret your ways to those who observe our words and deeds. Enfold us in your presence and give us strength and courage to pass on the light you have sent to illuminate our journey through life. We are eager to be fed by your Word today. Amen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, we are people of the flesh more than people of the spirit. Our lives are not worthy of the gospel of Christ. We admit our resentment when some people we deem unworthy benefit from your generosity. We confess our lack of attention to your laws, your living Word, your prompting Spirit. You alone are our salvation, our healing, our high opportunity to serve. We choose to belong to you. Accept and change us, we pray. 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.)

BELL ANTHEM *Joyful Melody* – by Bob Burroughs

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 16:2-15

²The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness.

³The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. ⁵On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days." ⁶So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, ⁷and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your complaining against the LORD. For what are we, that you complain against us?" ⁸And Moses said, "When the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the LORD has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the LORD."

⁹Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.'" ¹⁰And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. ¹¹The LORD spoke to Moses and said, ¹²"I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.'"

¹³In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another,

“What is it?”[£] For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat.

SERMON “Our Daily Bread”

INVITATION TO OFFERING

God provides generously for all of us. We are blessed with pure water and nourishing foods. We have found joy in the faith that sustains our spirits. Let us now expand the circle of opportunity as we share what God has promised.

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

Receive our tithes and offerings to your honor and glory, loving God. May fruitful results occur through and beyond our sharing. Call us all into the vineyard of meaningful labor and constructive leisure, that your Word, living through us, may call our neighbors to joyous reunion with you. May we help one another to live in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

BENEDICTION

One: May you know joy and progress in your faith. May this be a week of spiritual growth for you.

Many: May Christ dwell in us and among us. May the faith of the gospel empower us.

One: In all your struggles, know that Christ is with you. In all your labors, the love of God surrounds you.

Many: Glory be to God's holy name. Let all who seek God be assured and rejoice.

One: God surprises us and provides for us. Trust and give thanks for God's wonderful works.

Many: There is a song on our lips and joy in our hearts. In Christ our suffering finds meaning.
Amen

POSTLUDE *We Gather Together* - arr. Labenske