



## Hope UCC Weekly Update: November 15, 2020

*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.*

### **Zucchini Bread & Dried Sage: Fall Treasures from Dan Hawotte's Garden**

Dan Hawotte is not letting Covid keep him from supplying us with his wonderful dried sage and delicious zucchini bread, and we are so grateful! If you are interested in either or both, please let Dan and Barb know and they can arrange for delivery. Thank you, Dan, for providing the special ingredient that helps make all our savory dishes taste so much better! And that zucchini bread? Out of this world!



### **Quad Cities UCC/DOC Partnership Churches Las Posadas Celebration December 5, 1:00 p.m.**

**What:** Las Posadas is a tradition that commemorates the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem and their search for shelter. Las Posadas means “the inns” and this tradition was brought to Mexico from Spain in

the 1500's, and is still celebrated throughout Mexico and all over the world today.

Our procession will travel to the UCC and DOC churches in the Quad Cities, stopping at each one to ask for a room until our final stop receives us. At each stop we will sing Christmas carols and hymns (**outside, safely masked & distanced, following choral music safety guidelines**).

Las Posadas reminds us of the challenges faced by displaced people around the world and our call to share the sacred gifts of hospitality and welcome.

**When:** Saturday, December 5 at 1:00 p.m. Please gather in the parking lot of Edwards UCC to begin our journey. Las Posadas will be rescheduled if the weather does not cooperate.

**Who:** Families of one and families of many – all people of all ages are invited to join the Las Posadas Celebration! Children – young and old – are invited to wear angel and shepherd costumes! Properly worn masks are required by all participants.

**How:** Las Posadas in the time of Covid will be different. We will travel to each church in our cars and when we arrive, we'll stand together, safely distanced and with masks properly worn, outside, to sing. Dress for cold weather! You are also welcome to remain in your car and sing from inside there – we absolutely understand!

Our Las Posadas Route:

Start: Edwards UCC: 3420 Jersey Ridge Rd. Davenport, IA

Next: First Christian Church, Davenport: 510 East 15th Street, Davenport, IA

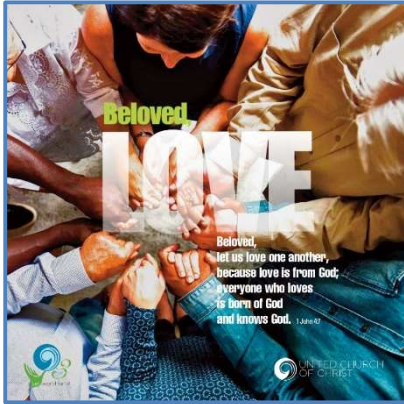
Next: Church of Peace UCC: 1114 12th St. Rock Island, IL

Next: Hope UCC: 3324 41st St. Moline, IL

Final Stop: First Congregational UCC Moline, 2201 7th Ave. Moline

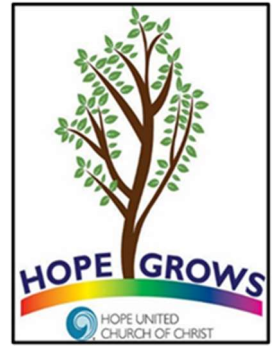
Traditionally, the Posada concludes with a fiesta at the final destination. Christmas cookies can still be enjoyed, even during a pandemic! Please bring your Christmas cookies in individually wrapped servings. We will have our (outdoor) fiesta at First Congregational UCC, Moline.

**Etc.:** If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Pastor Santana



Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL  
 Worship Bulletin November 15, 2020  
 Twenty-Fourth 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 *Simple Gifts* - arr. Johnston

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Lift up your eyes, seeking to know your God. Attune your spirit to the One in whom we dwell.

**Many: God's love surrounds us here today. God calls us to be children of light.**

One: We belong to the day when we have faith. We live confidently in the hope of salvation.

**Many: We seek to be faithful to the best we know. We want to invest the talents God gives us.**

One: Faithfulness gives us a sense of greater abundance. Doing justice adds to our sense of worth and dignity.

**Many: We are here to build up one another. May our worship encourage each of us today.**

INVITING GOD INTO OUR MIDST

**Fill us, gracious God, with a sense of your abiding presence. Awaken our spirits to realities unseen. Turn us from the dullness of our fear-filled grasping for security and help us to live with trust in you. Expand among us such mutual regard and encouragement as will build up community and lead all of us to live in the light. May faith and love dominate all our relationships as we enter into the joy of serving in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**We are reluctant to face your judgment, all-knowing God. We know we have not fully invested the talents you have entrusted to us. We hide them and hoard them, retreating into a false sense of security. We live in the nighttime of self-protection rather than in the light of full participation in loving, faithful service. We seek to escape your wrath by shrinking from life rather than investing ourselves in the tasks to which you call us. Have mercy on us, O God. We want to be children of the day—your day. Help us! 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 *How Firm a Foundation* David 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

Psalms 90:1-12

- <sup>1</sup> Lord, you have been our dwelling place<sup>£</sup>  
in all generations.
- <sup>2</sup> Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,  
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.
- <sup>3</sup> You turn us<sup>£</sup> back to dust,  
and say, "Turn back, you mortals."
- <sup>4</sup> For a thousand years in your sight  
are like yesterday when it is past,  
or like a watch in the night.
- <sup>5</sup> You sweep them away; they are like a dream,  
like grass that is renewed in the morning;
- <sup>6</sup> in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;  
in the evening it fades and withers.
- <sup>7</sup> For we are consumed by your anger;  
by your wrath we are overwhelmed.
- <sup>8</sup> You have set our iniquities before you,  
our secret sins in the light of your countenance.
- <sup>9</sup> For all our days pass away under your wrath;  
our years come to an end<sup>£</sup> like a sigh.
- <sup>10</sup> The days of our life are seventy years,  
or perhaps eighty, if we are strong;  
even then their span<sup>£</sup> is only toil and trouble;

they are soon gone, and we fly away.

<sup>11</sup> Who considers the power of your anger?

Your wrath is as great as the fear that is due you.

<sup>12</sup> So teach us to count our days

that we may gain a wise heart.

## NEW TESTAMENT LESSONS

### 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters,<sup>£</sup> you do not need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup>For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! <sup>4</sup>But you, beloved,<sup>£</sup> are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; <sup>5</sup>for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. <sup>6</sup>So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; <sup>7</sup>for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup>But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup>For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup>who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. <sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

### Matthew 25:14-30

14 "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; 15 to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. 16 The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. 17 In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. 18 But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. 19 After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 20 Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." 21 His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." 22 And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." 23 His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." 24 Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; 25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." 26 But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? 27 Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. 28 So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. 29 For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. 30 As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

# SERMON “Sharing Our Joy”

SERMON HYMN #43 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (see end of bulletin)

## INVITATION TO OFFERING

God asks us for an accounting of what we have done with the wealth entrusted to us. All that we have and all that we are belongs to God. The climax of worship is an accounting of our stewardship. What are we doing with our time, talent, and treasure? It is not only what we offer to the church today but what we offer to God every day that is under judgment here. May we give with thankfulness.

*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 Santana. 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

There is no escape from your judgment, O Spirit of Holiness, but neither can we flee beyond your limitless love. We offer an accounting of our stewardship in and beyond the offering of this day. Reshape our lives for joyous, responsive participation in work that builds up the body of Christ. Use what we offer here to bring encouragement and hope to many who have lost a sense of meaning for their lives. Bless us and our offerings. Amen.

## BENEDICTION

One: As another week unfolds, continue to look up. Dare to invest yourself for the sake of others.

**Many: God will go with us to uplift our spirits. We will pass on to others the encouragement God gives.**

One: Live as children of the day, children of light. Keep awake, sober, and full of faith and love.

**Many: God's saving grace is a healing force among us. God's trust in us helps us to trust others.**

One: Listen for God's commendation and affirmation: "Well done, good and faithful servant."

**Many: We will seek to be worthy of that award. May God bless our worship and our service.**

## POSTLUDE

*Used by permission: One License # A-733028*

*Used by Permission. CCLI License #11387335*

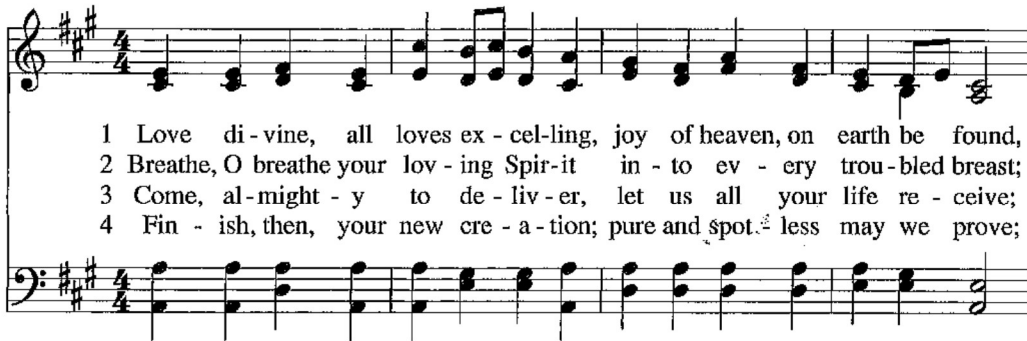
## JESUS CHRIST

43

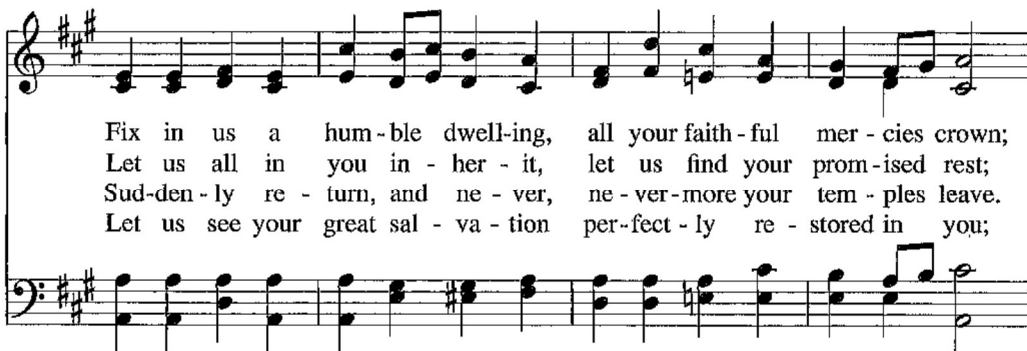
## Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Mal. 3:1; 2 Cor. 3:18; 5:17; Eph. 5:27

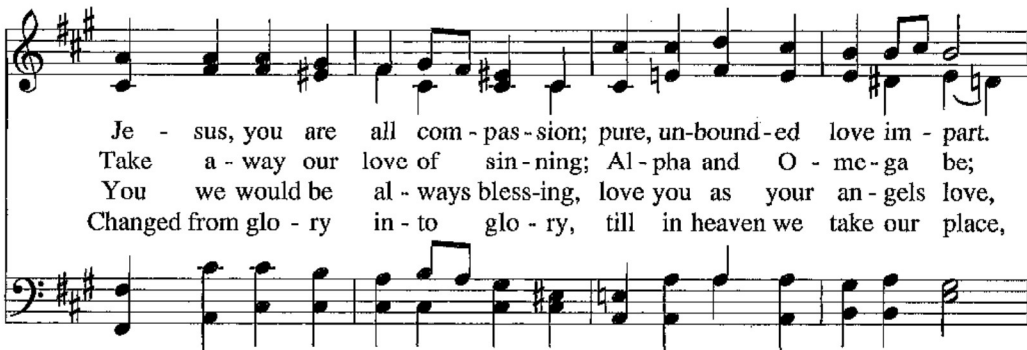
Charles Wesley, 1747; alt.



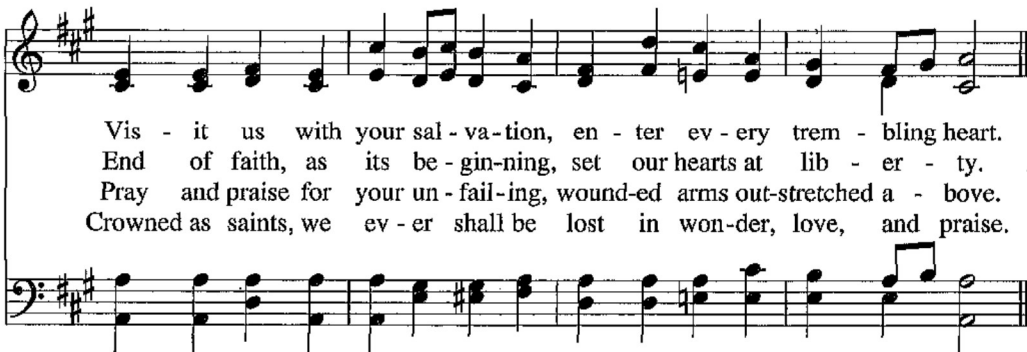
1 Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, joy of heaven, on earth be found,  
 2 Breathe, O breathe your lov-ing Spir-it in-to ev-ery trou-bled breast;  
 3 Come, al-might-y to de-liv-er, let us all your life re-ceive;  
 4 Fin-ish, then, your new cre-a-tion; pure and spot-less may we prove;



Fix in us a hum-ble dwell-ing, all your faith-ful mer-cies crown;  
 Let us all in you in-her-it, let us find your prom-ised rest;  
 Sud-den-ly re-turn, and ne-ver, ne-ver-more your tem-ples leave.  
 Let us see your great sal-va-tion per-fect-ly re-stored in you;



Je-sus, you are all com-pas-sion; pure, un-bound-ed love im-part.  
 Take a-way our love of sin-ning; Al-pha and O-mc-ga be;  
 You we would be al-ways bless-ing, love you as your an-gels love,  
 Changed from glo-ry in-to glo-ry, till in heaven we take our place,



Vis-it us with your sal-va-tion, en-ter ev-ery trem-bling heart.  
 End of faith, as its be-gin-ning, set our hearts at lib-er-ty.  
 Pray and praise for your un-fail-ing, wound-ed arms out-stretched a-bove.  
 Crowned as saints, we ev-er shall be lost in won-der, love, and praise.

*This hymn is said to have been suggested by a "Song of Venus" from Dryden's King Arthur. It is one of 6,500 written by Charles Wesley, the "sweet singer of Methodism," who was skilled at interweaving literary and scriptural images.*

Tune: BEECHER 8.7.8.7.D.  
 John Zundel, 1855

Alternate tune: HYFRYDOL  
 For another harmonization, see 368, 495