



Hope UCC Weekly Update: April 2, 2023

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.

Hope UCC's Lenten Taizé Prayer Service Wednesday, April 5th

Please join us this Wednesday, April 5, for a light dinner and/or our last Taizé Prayer Service of this Lenten Season. A light dinner will be served at 5:30pm and the Taizé Prayer Service will begin at 6:00pm.

Holy Week at Hope UCC - A Lenten Prayer Journey

Please continue to join us at Hope UCC throughout Holy Week for any or all of these worship opportunities:

- Wednesday, April 5
 - Light Dinner and Taizé Prayer Service
 - Dinner 5:30-6:00pm and the service begins at 6:00pm.
 - A Taizé service is a meditative prayer service that combines elements of traditional liturgy (reading scripture & prayers) with elements of contemplative meditation and simple music chants. The result is a gradual movement of prayer from our heads to our hearts. Not sure about this? Come and give it a try! It's Lent – let yourself be open to new faith development opportunities.
- Maundy Thursday April 6 at 6:30pm
- Good Friday April 7 at 6:30pm
- Saturday April 8, 10:00am-12:00pm, Community Easter Story Book Walk at Hope UCC
- Sunday April 9, Easter Sunday!
 - 6:00am Sunrise Service in the Memorial Garden
 - 10:00am Festival Worship

Please Join us for the Easter Story Walk this Saturday, April 8th



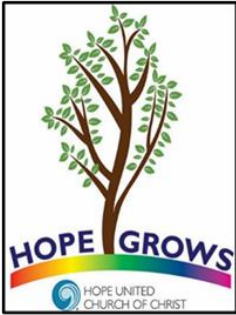
'Twas the Morning of Easter Story Walk"
at Hope United Church of Christ
Saturday, April 8
9:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M.

- All ages are welcome: self-paced walk through the pages of this book.
- Readers progress from one station to the next until they've read the whole book
- Coffee, hot chocolate, and donuts will be served
- All participants will receive an Easter treat bag and will choose a book to take home.

Join us and enjoy reading the Easter story in a fun and interactive way. This Easter Story Walk is free, open to the public, accessible, and is a great intergenerational activity to enjoy.

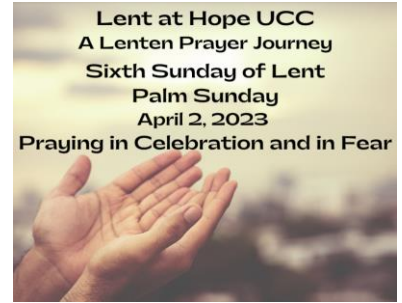
Hope UCC is located at 3324 41st St in Moline
 For more information please see our website:
www.hopeuccqc.org or call 309-762-1419
 The Story Walk will be in the rear of the church campus
 (we'll move inside if it is raining)

Consider joining us and/or helping with the Easter Story Walk on Saturday, April 8 (the day before Easter!).



**Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL
Worship Bulletin April 2, 2023**

*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

CANDLE LIGHTING MEDITATION

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: This is a day of joyous welcome. Yet joy is tempered by impending doom.

Many: We welcome Christ with waving branches. We wait with Christ through hours of agony.

One: Our leader comes humbly, riding a donkey. Blessed is the one who comes in God's name.

Many: Jesus rides into the chaos of our times. People still oppose the way of love.

One: Yet love prevails in spite of opposition. Give thanks that God's steadfast love endures forever.

Many: Open to us the gates of righteousness. Let us enter in the light God offers.

***OPENING HYMN** #216 *All Glory Laud and Honor* (see end of bulletin)

***INVITING GOD INTO OUR MIDST**

Be gracious to us, O God, in our moments of grief and fear. Be with us as we rejoice in the day you have made. Our times are in your hands, both when we mourn and when we celebrate. Guide our thoughts and actions so we may appreciate the possibilities in every day. We trust in you, O God. Let your face shine on your servants. Amen.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Holy God, we have blamed you when the hosannas die and the parade turns into a mob scene. We heap our doubts on you even though our inaction adds power to those who shout, "Crucify." We rebel against the risks of discipleship. Why raise our voices against the evil we see? One voice simply becomes one more victim. O God, we protest, but we know down deep that the victim of our silence is the way of love, the way of life. Forgive our cowardice, and help us to stand with Christ in a world that has forgotten humility and obedience to you. O God, we want to be faithful. Why does it cost so much? Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND PASSING OF PEACE

God does not forsake us. In times of terror and suffering we are not alone. In Christ, we are strengthened as we watch and pray. We receive courage to love in the face of ridicule and to act for truth amid the oppressive forces of deceit. Love is at the heart of creation, bringing us to new beginnings, to resurrection life in all its fullness.

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.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29 *(Sung Responsively)*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Fine

*GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 21:1-17

¹ When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." ⁴ This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet: ⁵ "Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey." ⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷ they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" ¹⁰ When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil,

asking, "Who is this?" ¹¹ The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee." ¹² Then Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who were selling and buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. ¹³ He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you are making it a den of robbers." ¹⁴ The blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he cured them. ¹⁵ But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the amazing things that he did and heard the children crying out in the temple and saying, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they became angry ¹⁶ and said to him, "Do you hear what these are saying?" Jesus said to them, "Yes; have you never read, 'Out of the mouths of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise for yourself?'" ¹⁷ He left them, went out of the city to Bethany, and spent the night there.

SERMON

Praying in Celebration and in Fear

SERMON HYMN #11 *Bring Many Names* (see end of bulletin)

PRAYER PRACTICE

Body Prayer

INVITATION TO OFFERING

For thirty pieces of silver, Jesus Christ was betrayed. And still today he is denied in the way we use the resources entrusted to us. God does not ask of us a token of support. We are called to give our all, of which our offering here is but a symbol. Will our gifts shout good news to the world?

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

May these offerings bring life-changing good news, both to those who give and to all who are reached by the caring ministries of the church. May they help to restore relationships of trust among us and outpourings of generosity that echo your steadfast love around the world. May your saints be raised to new life that cuts through the deceptions of society to bring your new order among us, O God of all times and places. Amen.

CANDLE EXTINGUISHING MEDITATION

One: As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain of illness and disease in the world. Let us pray:

Many: Loving God, there are so many choices before us every day. Choices offered by our friends, our families, our culture, our own past. Some of them encourage the well-being of the earth, ourselves and our neighbors; others are destructive. Help us to distinguish between them. May we learn from the choices of Jesus and embody compassion, justice, and inclusion in all we say and do. Amen.

BENEDICTION

One: Life high the branches that honor Jesus Christ. Life high the cross that proclaims love's sacrifice.

Many: We will wave our greeting with joyous praise. We will risk the commitment that led to a cross.

One: We are under oath before the living God. May we have no reason to weep when the cock crows.

Many: The promises we have made excite and challenge us. We seek to be loyal and courageous in Christ's service.

One: God keeps covenant with us in all circumstances. The cup of blessing is extended to us every day.

Many: May our flesh be strengthened to match our willing spirits. May love prevail in all our dealings this week. Amen.

POSTLUDE

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WHAT IS THE BODY PRAYER?

Julian of Norwich was a 14th-century mystic, anchoress, and spiritual companion whose account of her life-changing mystical experience, *The Revelations of Divine Love* (also known as *Showings*), is a wonderful reminder of God's love for us. Julian once wrote, "The fruit and the purpose of prayer is to be 'oned' with and like God in all things."

A form of body prayer has become popular that is known as the Prayer of Julian of Norwich. Some sources claim that Julian originated the prayer, after suffering

immense pain, as a simple and beautiful way to pray using actions based on the words Await; Allow; Accept; and Attend. Each word has an associated body movement with it, which you may do either standing or sitting. However, you may also use those words – without the body movements – to pause and pray in a moment of anxiety or stress, in order to help you reconnect with God.

These days when so many of us have been handed a faith tradition that ignores or distrusts or sometimes even hates the body, and when we live in a society that has made the body a commodity, and has privileged certain kinds of bodies more than others, this prayer can be a way to reclaim God's love for all our bodies.

Julian of Norwich's body prayer can help us resist the idea that the body is something we need to renounce or transcend in order to experience communion with God. Instead, Julian invites us to be in our bodies, embrace our physicality as a way to ground ourselves, and find oneness with the divine and with all living things. As you pray this prayer it can help you connect your heart, mind and body and to more fully experience God's love for every part of you.

STEPS OF BODY PRAYER

The prayer has four simple postures and intentions. Sit or stand to offer the

1. AWAIT (hands at waist, cupped up to receive): Await God's presence, however it may come to you.
2. ALLOW (reach up, hands open): Allow a sense of God's presence) to come ...or not...and be what it is.
3. ACCEPT (hands at heart, cupped towards body): Accept as a gift whatever comes or does not come. Accept that you don't know everything, and that you are not in charge.
4. ATTEND (hands outstretched, ready to be responsive): Attend to what you are called to, willing to be present and be God's love in the world, however God calls you to.

For more information, please go to <https://www.cascadialivingwisdom.com/body-prayer-julian-of-norwich>

All Glory, Laud, and Honor


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Theodulph of Orléans, 9th century
 Transl. John Mason Neale, 1854; alt.


Matt. 21:8-9




1 All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, O Christ, we sing,
 2 O Prom-ised One of Is - rael, of Da - vid's roy - al line,
 3 As you re-ceived their prais - es, re - ceive our prayers to - day,



to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring!
 the one called "God's be - lov - ed," of flesh and yet di - vine,
 whose jus - tice and whose mer - cy and sov - ereign - ty hold sway.



The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms a - dorned your way;
 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise;
 All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, O Christ, we sing,



our praise and prayer and an - thems we of - fer you this day.
 to you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
 to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring!

Brought to France by Charlemagne, Theodulph became bishop of Orléans but was later imprisoned by Charlemagne's successor. According to legend, he was released when the king, Louis the Pious, heard him sing this hymn from prison.

Tune: ST. THEODULPH 7.6.7.6.D.
 (VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN)
 Melchior Teschner, 1615
 For another setting, see 217

Bring Many Names

11

Brian Wren, 1989

Gen. 1:27

Unison

1 Bring man - y names, beau - ti - ful and good, cel - e - brate, in
 2 Strong moth - er God, work - ing night and day, plan - ning all the
 3 Warm fa - ther God, hug - ging ev - ery child, feel - ing all the
 4 Old, ach - ing God, grey with end - less care, calm - ly pierc - ing

par - a - ble and sto - ry, ho - li - ness in glo - ry, liv - ing, lov - ing God.
 won - ders of cre - a - tion, set - ting each e - qua - tion, gen - i - us at play:
 strains of hu - man liv - ing, car - ing and for - giv - ing till we're rec - on - ciled:
 e - vil's new dis - guis - es, glad of good sur - pris - es, wis - er than de - spair:

Hail and Ho - san - na! bring man - y names! great, liv - ing God!
 Hail and Ho - san - na, strong moth - er God!
 Hail and Ho - san - na, warm fa - ther God!
 Hail and Ho - san - na, old, ach - ing God!

5 Young, grow - ing God, ea - ger,
 on the move,
 say - ing no to false - hood and
 un - kind - ness,
 cry - ing out for jus - tice,
 giv - ing all you have:
 Hail and Ho - san - na,
 young, grow - ing God!

6 Great, liv - ing God, nev - er ful - ly known,
 joy - ful dark - ness far be - yond our see - ing,
 clos - er yet than breath - ing,
 ev - er - last - ing home:
 Hail and Ho - san - na,
 great, liv - ing God!

The author states that aspects of the divine are revealed in our maleness, femaleness, youth, and age in a moving, growing matrix of life in God. The tune Westchase was composed especially for this text.

Tune: WESTCHASE 9.10.11.9.
 Carlton Young, 1989