



Hope UCC Weekly Update: March 16, 2025

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.

Tuesday Night Soup Dinners and Contemplative Worship Services Tuesdays, March 11, 18, 25, April 1, 8, 15 Soup Dinner at 5:30 P.M.

Service begins at 6:00 P.M. Join us for a weekly time together to spend time in fellowship and quiet contemplative prayer and worship. If you would like to come early for a light soup dinner together, be here at 5:30. We will then transition to the sanctuary for contemplative style service, engaging our senses through prayer, music, meditation, scripture, and movement. Join us and share this time in community and deepening of our commitment to a Lenten spiritual practice.

Special Offering for World Relief Quad Cities: March 1 – 23



If you feel called to financially support the ongoing resettlement efforts of World Relief Quad Cities during this challenging time, we will be receiving that offering through March 23rd. Please indicate “WRQC” on the memo line of your check or on your envelope if it is a cash offering. Thank you for your thoughtful support of our neighbors in the Quad Cities.

Lent & Easter

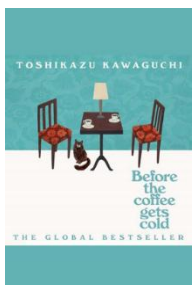


Choir During Lent, Hope UCC will once again offer the opportunity to join together for a vocal choir. The choir will offer anthems at different services in Lent, Holy Week, and Easter Sunday. Please see our Ministers of Music, Greg and Laurel, if you'd like to sign up. Remember, no choir experience is necessary!

Ruth Circle: March 17

Please join us for our monthly meeting at Hope UCC. Bring a friend for a time of fellowship, planning, and good energy together.

Hope UCC Book Club: March 31, 2:30pm at Hope UCC



Join us for our discussion of *Before the Coffee Gets Cold*, a Heartwarming Novel of Time Travel, Magical Realism and the Power of Healing by Toshikazu Kawaguchi. This is always a wonderful gathering filled with laughter, good discussions, and great insights. See you there and please contact Dorothy Burdick if you have any questions.



Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL
Worship Bulletin March 16, 2025
Second Sunday in Lent
Rev. Santina Poor, Pastor

Thank you for joining us for worship today.
We are glad you are here!
Because you are who you are,
you are welcome here!
***Those who are able, please stand.**



PRELUDE *What Wondrous Love Is This* arranged by Cynthia Dobrinski.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ENTER INTO WORSHIP

MEDITATIVE HYMN Hands and Feet
Please join in singing the chorus. We will sing it two times.
So, here we are.
Words can only go so far.
Draw us closer to your heart.
Bring us back to you,
Bring us back to you.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God is our light, our salvation, and our hope.
Many: God's light beckons us like a moth to a flame.
 One: When forces of darkness rise against us,
Many: We seek the radiant face of God light our way.
 One: Stand firm and trust this promise:
Many: God is with us now.

*OPENING HYMN NCH #436 *God of Grace and God of Glory*

*OPENING PRAYER

Protector God, you long to gather us under the wings of your love. When evil saps our spirits, you yearn to strengthen us by the power of your Holy Spirit. Shine the bright wisdom of Christ in our lives, that we may hear your word in difficult times, feel your embracing love, and walk in your ways. Amen.

*PRAYER OF YEARNING and ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

O God, Evil is not only in our world, it is in our hearts and in our lives. Protect us from dangers, both within and without, that would lead us astray. Strengthen us against the fears that cause us to stumble, and shelter us from destruction and the sorrows in our lives. Restore our souls and lift us up, that we may amend our ways and return to you in troubled times. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

*SHARING GOD'S PEACE

BELL ANTHEM

Prayer for Humanity by Linda Lam

LEARNING FROM OUR CHILDREN

PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

One: 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

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

¹ After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ² But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴ But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵ He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶ And he believed the LORD, and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷ Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." ⁸ But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" ⁹ He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰ He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other, but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹ And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹² As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

¹⁷ When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸ On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates,

Psalm 27

Response

Antiphon: Lee Dengler, 1994

Dm Unison Am7/C Bb A Dm

Do not for - sake me, O God of my sal - va - tion.

R

¹God is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

God is the stronghold of my life; of
whom shall I be afraid?

²When evildoers assail me to devour
my flesh —

my adversaries and foes — they
shall stumble and fall.

³Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear.

Though war rise up against me, yet
I will be confident.

⁴One thing I asked of God, that will
I seek after:

to live in the house of God all the
days of my life, *R*

to behold the beauty of God, and to
inquire in God's temple.

⁵For God will hide me in God's
shelter in the day of trouble;

God will conceal me under the cover
of God's tent;

God will set me high on a rock.

⁶Now my head is lifted up above my
enemies all around me,

and I will offer in God's tent
sacrifices with shouts of joy;

I will sing and make melody to God.

⁷Hear, O God, when I cry aloud, be
gracious to me and answer me! *R*

⁸"Come," my heart says, "seek God's
face!"

Your face, O God, do I seek.

⁹Do not hide your face from me.

Do not turn your servant away in
anger, you who have been my help.

Do not cast me off, do not forsake
me,

O God of my salvation!

¹⁰If my father and mother forsake me,
God will take me up. *R*

¹¹Teach me your way, O God,
and lead me on a level path because
of my enemies.

¹²Do not give me up to the will of my
adversaries, for false witnesses have
risen against me,
and they are breathing out violence.

¹³I believe that I shall see the goodness
of God
in the land of the living.

¹⁴Wait for God, be strong;
let your heart take courage, wait for
God! *R*

Epiphany 3 [3] A vs. 1, 4-9.

(May be sung with double tone.)

*GOSPEL LESSON Luke 13:31-35

³¹ At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." ³² He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³ Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' ³⁴ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵ See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.' "

SERMON

We Long for Peace & Goodness

SERMON HYMN:

NCH #459 *Come O Fount of Every Blessing*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

When you look at all the stars in the sky, know that your blessings are just as numerous. As we share our gifts, think of the blessings you have received and give what you have to share.

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.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of light, your blessings are as numerous as the stars; your mercy is as deep as the sea. You gather us into your embrace, like a mother hen gathers her chicks. For your many blessings, we offer you our tithes and offerings. May these gifts be a source of blessing for others, that all might know the promise of your goodness in the mean and evil places of the world. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

NCH #423 *Great Is Your Faithfulness*

*BENEDICTION

One: Though evil surrounds us, the Lord is our light and our salvation.

Many: In God, we are not afraid.

One: Though the wicked seek to destroy the godly, the Lord gathers us in,

Many: as a mother hen gathers her chicks under her wings. In God, we dwell secure.

One: Go forth in peace, and return to the arms of Love.

Many: In troubled times, we find our true home in God. Amen.

EXTINGUISHING THE LENT CANDLE

ONE: As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain of injury done to the Earth and God's Creation

Let us pray:

MANY: 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.

POSTLUDE Hands and Feet

We will sing this together

**For every broken heart, for every widow,
for those without shelter from the rain,
We lift our eyes to You, looking for answers,
When we have been called to ease the pain.
We want to be Your hands, Your feet.
Without words we'll let our actions speak.**

Here we are.

Words can only go so far.

Draw us closer to Your heart;

Bring us back to You, bring us back to You

Here we are.

Words can only go so far.

Draw us closer to Your heart;

Bring us back to You, bring us back to You

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Serving in Worship Today

Reverend Santina Poor, Pastor Hope UCC

Liturgist: Youth Group

Ministers of Music: Laurel Filzen Etzel, Greg Etzel

Accompanist: Bob Poor

Greeter: Youth Group

Slide Ministry: Lindsey Svetlick

Fellowship Hour: Jan Varga, Judy Hawotte, Ken Curtis, Bob Morales

Audio-Visual Ministry: Jenny Hookey, Donna Werner, Bob Tallitsch, Kathy Hobson,
Bob Poor, Bek Svetlick