

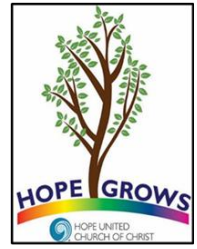
Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL
Worship Bulletin December 28, 2025
First Sunday After Christmas
Lindsey Svetlick

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Praise God, all who dwell on this earth.
 Praise God in the heights and depths of life.

Many: We will recount the deeds of God.

Surely God has shown us goodness and mercy.

One: Praise God, sun and moon and stars.
 Praise God, fire and hail, snow and frost.

Many: Men and women, young and old, together:

Let us praise and honor our creator.

One: Let God's name be praised and exalted.
 God's glory is above heaven and earth.

Many: By God's steadfast love, we are drawn to worship.
Our gracious Savior leads us in new ways.



OPENING HYMN

Joy To The World



***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

Redeemer of all who put their trust in you, we seek your presence here. Only our own attitudes can separate us from you. Re-create us in your own image so we may be true to your intentions for us and in tune with your purposes for our life together. In our times of distress, pour out your pity and your love that we may know we are not alone. Lift us up and carry us when our strength fails. Now, in the midst of this congregation, we would praise you and honor your name. Amen.



***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

O God, we have been so busy with things that do not satisfy! We have tried to fill our emptiness with activities and possessions that drain our energies rather than give life meaning. We do not know how to live, and we are afraid to die. We excuse our own sin at the same time that we deplore the abuse and violence we see in others. We deny the witness of the One who shared our common lot, for we are not willing to take the risks of genuine love. O God, save us from ourselves. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Christ identified with us to show us whose we are. Christ suffered for us to help us in our times of testing. Christ died to lead us to life in all its fullness. Now our merciful and faithful High Priest welcomes us to be at one with God and our own best selves. We are forgiven, we are redeemed, we are lifted up to a life of true freedom.

*SHARING GOD'S PEACE



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

Isaiah 63:7-9

⁷ I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD,

the praiseworthy acts of the LORD,
because of all that the LORD has done for us
and the great favor to the house of Israel
that he has shown them according to his mercy,
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

⁸ For he said, "Surely they are my people,
children who will not act deceitfully,"

and he became their savior

⁹ in all their distress.

It was no messenger or angel
but his presence that saved them;
in his love and pity it was he who redeemed them;
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Psalms: 148

¹ Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!

² Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his host!

³ Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars!

⁴ Praise him, you highest heavens
and you waters above the heavens!

⁵ Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for he commanded and they were created.

⁶ He established them forever and ever;
he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.^[a]

⁷ Praise the LORD from the earth,
 you sea monsters and all deeps,
⁸ fire and hail, snow and frost,
 stormy wind fulfilling his command!
⁹ Mountains and all hills,
 fruit trees and all cedars!
¹⁰ Wild animals and all cattle,
 creeping things and flying birds!
¹¹ Kings of the earth and all peoples,
 princes and all rulers of the earth!
¹² Young men and women alike,
 old and young together!
¹³ Let them praise the name of the LORD,
 for his name alone is exalted;
 his glory is above earth and heaven.
¹⁴ He has raised up a horn for his people,
 praise for all his faithful,
 for the people of Israel who are close to him.
 Praise the LORD!

*GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 2:13-23

¹³ Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

¹⁶ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. ¹⁷ Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

¹⁸ "A voice was heard in Ramah,
 wailing and loud lamentation,
 Rachel weeping for her children;
 she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

¹⁹ When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰ "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." ²¹ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³ There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazarene."

SERMON

SERMON HYMN

Time of Reflection (Instrumental music)

INVITATION TO OFFERING

We are invited to praise God with the offerings of our best. In the generous spirit of this season, we give thanks for God's providence with an answering generosity. The needs of our brothers and sisters, both spiritual and material, cry out for the help we can give. What a privilege to act for God through our giving!



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



Awesome God, when we recount your gracious deeds and praiseworthy acts, we want to imitate them. Because of your mercy and favor and the abundance of your steadfast love, we are moved to respond. Thank you for the gift of life, for all you have entrusted to us, for your watchful care over us, for surrounding us with love when loss and suffering overwhelm us. It is when we give with generous hearts that we begin to understand how much we have been given. Thank you, God. Amen.



*CLOSING HYMN

Can Anything Anywhere Hinder God's Love

*BENEDICTION

One: Engage your world as brothers and sisters of Jesus.
Treat all God's children as next of kin.

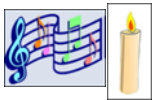
**Many: God has called us into community.
Jesus leads us into a life of service.**

One: Praise God for all creation, including yourself.
Praise God for the variety of people who surround us.

**Many: We share one flesh and blood with all humanity.
We share one flesh and blood with Jesus Christ.**

One: Surely we are loved, welcomed, and blessed.
God's presence goes with us in all we do.

**Many: Wherever we go, we can count on God's care.
Whatever we face, Christ will meet us there. Amen.**



*POSTLUDE

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Serving in Worship Today: Lindsey Svetlick

Liturgist: Nanc Kinley

Ministers of Music: Laurel Filzen Etzel, Greg Etzel

Accompanist: Robyn Carter

Greeter: Stacy Demarest

Fellowship Hour: Zoie Fuller, Ben Carter, Ken Curtis, Bob Morales

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

Joy to the World!

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Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

Ps. 98:4-9; Luke 2:11-15

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth its
 2 Joy to the earth! the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 Christ rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

prais - es bring; Let ev - ery heart pre - pare Christ room,
 songs em - ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 na - tions prove The glo - ries of God's righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 and won - ders of God's love, and won - ders of God's

and
 re -
 and

heaven and na - ture sing,
 re - peat the sound - ing joy,
 won - ders of God's love,

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of God's love.

heaven and na - ture sing,
 re - peat the sound - ing joy,
 won - ders of God's love,

Stanza 1 may be sung, "Joy to the world! the Sovereign comes: . . ."

Isaac Watts, an English Congregationalist, freely paraphrased
 Old Testament psalms to glorify Christ and here develops a
 hymn of advent and nativity from a psalm.

Tune: ANTIOCH C.M.
 Lowell Mason, 1836