

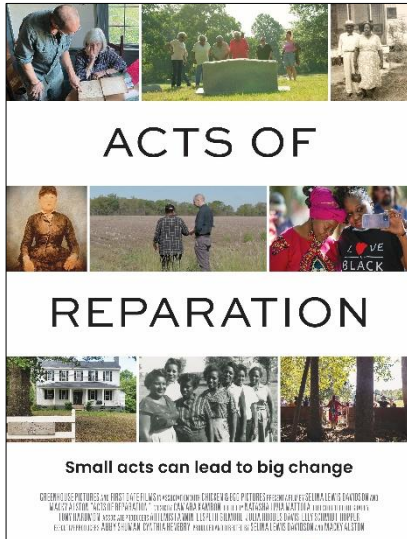


Hope UCC Weekly Update: March 30, 2025

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.

Easter Lilies and Flowering Bulb Plants

All orders due to office by April 14 please (form attached).



Friday, March 28: Acts of Reparation Film Screening

Due to the severe weather threat on March 14, we rescheduled the screening of the documentary Acts of Reparation. Please join us for the potluck at 5:00 P.M. and the screening at 6:00 P.M.

Welcome Rev. Duane Lahti!

We are happy to welcome Pastor Duane to Hope UCC on March 30th for our first ever Pulpit Exchange with First Congregational UCC Moline.

Pastor Duane was called to First Congregational UCC in July of 2023 and has been busy bringing joy and Spirit-filled ministry to that faith community ever since!

Pastor Duane was born and raised in Minnesota and had lived in Chicagoland for 40 years before relocating to Moline. He attended North Park College and Loyola University in Chicago, receiving a B.A. in Psychology and an M.A. in Community Counseling. He has his Master of Divinity from Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary, graduating with honors.

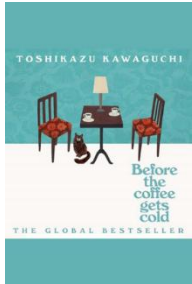
Welcome Pastor Duane! Hope UCC is looking forward to sharing worship with FCCUCC Moline during Holy Week.

Tuesday Night Soup Dinners and Contemplative Worship Services Tuesdays, March 11, 18, 25, April 1, 8 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.

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!

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.

EASTER LILIES

Order your Easter Lilies and Flowering Bulb Plants for Easter morning. Please fill out the information below and return the form and payment to the office as soon as possible.

All orders are to be collected by April 14.

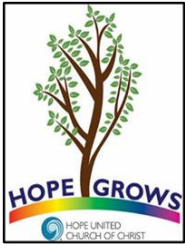
(If you are writing a check please make it payable to Hope UCC.)

You are welcome to take your Plant home following our Easter worship service.

COST: \$15.00 each QUANTITY: _____

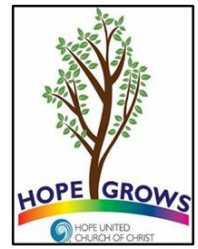
YOUR NAME:

IN HONOR/MEMORY OF:
(circle one)



Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL
 Worship Bulletin March 30, 2025
 Fourth Sunday in Lent

Reverend Duane A. Lahti
*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

MEDITATIVE HYMN Hands and Feet

Please join in singing the chorus. We will sing it two times.

Hands and Feet

Here we are _____ Words can on - ly go so far _____

71 _____ Draw us clo - ser to Your heart _____

76 _____ Bring us back to You, _____ bring us back to You _____

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Like the Father's longing for his son's return,

Many: May we long to return home from our fruitless wanderings.

One: As the Father's breath is held with hope as he runs towards a child seeking forgiveness,

Many: May we long to come to this place to find hope and warmth in this communion of love.

One: As the Father embraced his son with hugs, kisses, robe, and ring,

Many: Let us adorn ourselves with the grace that God so richly bestows upon us.

One: The joy of the Father rejoices in the one who is lost and now is safely home.

Many: May our time of worship be one of joy-filled praises, for our hearts were dead and now are alive.

One: Let our Lenten worship rejoice in God's eternal grace.

Many: May our voices lift praises of God's unfathomable love for all creation.

***OPENING HYMN**

Love Divine All Loves Excelling (see attached music)

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Many: Holy and Beautiful, Almighty and Infinite God fix in us thy humble dwellings, and visit us with thy salvation. You, we would always, with all creation, sing your praise. Bid us not thy temple leave but transform in us this day, in our gathering together, the new creation perfectly restored in your unending love. Bring your Holy Spirit upon us and chase the distractions of this world from our minds, and may we find our worship centered on you and your promise of love. Bid us to continually return to you, for you celebrate with joy when any of your children return home. In Jesus's name, we pray. Amen!

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

During this season of Lent, we are reminded that we are called to metanoia, to change our direction from unhealthy and unholy time-consuming activities—those things that distract us from the redeeming and loving call of Christ—and instead return to a newness and change led by Christ's words of forgiveness upon the cross: "Forgive them for they know not what they do," that we may come with repentant hearts.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Many: Let us pray together. O God of eternal watching and waiting, hear our pleas for your compassionate mercy, for we have lost ourselves in the distractions of this world and our self-centeredness. Through your covenant of eternal love, your eye is ever vigilant upon the horizon, seeking our return to you. We alone are not worthy to be called your child for the evils we have done and the things we have left undone. We confess that we have not loved neighbors or enemies as ourselves and have often wished for their destruction or demise. We pray that your infinite mercy and grace will be a robe wrapped around us and your loving ring of forgiveness will be adorned upon our hand so that we might be once again held as your child in your loving embrace. Amen!

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

O beloved children of God, God has never left you and even now welcomes you with open and loving arms. God's forgiveness is merciful and celebrates the return of all God's children home. May all who are here this day find grace in the welcoming God of love who rejoices that there is life and hope and that this community is one of abundant and eternal welcome. May you experience Christ's redeeming love with all who call this community home.

PASSING THE PEACE

PRAYER SONG *Spirit of God Descend Upon My Heart* (see attached music)

V.1 **Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
wean it from earth, through all its pulses move;
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as you are,
and make me love thee as I ought to love.**

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE/PASTORAL PRAYER

One: The Lord be with you.

Many: And also, with you.

One: Let us pray: ...

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

PRAYER SONG *Spirit of God Descend Upon My Heart* (see attached music)

V.4 **Teach me to feel that you are always nigh;
teach me the struggles of the soul to bear,
To check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh;
teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.**

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Joshua 5:9-12

The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day. While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal, they kept the Passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and roasted grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Psalm 32

Response *Antiphon: Emma Lou Diemer, 1994*

Unison *E♭* *Gm* *A♭M7* *B♭* *E♭*

Stead - fast love sur - rounds those who trust in God.

R

¹Happy are those whose transgression
is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

²Happy are those to whom God
imputes no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no
deceit.

³While I kept silence, my body
was faded away
through my groaning all day long.

⁴For day and night your hand was
heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the
heat of summer. *R*

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not hide my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my
transgressions to God,"
and you forgave the guilt of my
sin.

⁶Therefore let all who are faithful offer
prayer to you;

at a time of distress, the rush of
mighty waters shall not reach them.

⁷You are a hiding place for me; you
preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with glad cries of
deliverance. *R*

⁸I will instruct you and teach you the
way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye
upon you.

⁹Do not be like a horse or a mule,
without understanding,
whose temper must be curbed with
bit and bridle, else it will not stay
near you.

¹⁰Many are the torments of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds those
who trust in God.

¹¹Be glad in God and rejoice, O
righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright
in heart. *R*

*Proper 26 [31] C vs. 1-7. (If all verses are used, may be
sung with double tone.)*

HYMN OF PREPARATION

O God, How We Have Wandered

(see attached music)

***GOSPEL**

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” So he told them this parable:

“There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.’ So he divided his assets between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. But when he came to his senses he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

“Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.’ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’ ”

SERMON

*“The Light of a Distant Home”***INVITATION TO OFFERING & UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

One: The Father did not hesitate to shower affection upon his sons as they returned home from destructive wandering and enriched fields of grain. All that the father had he bestowed on his children. No holding back and sharing so all could be restored and forgiven. Let us give as Christ so lavishly showered us in his redeeming love.

Many: O God of unending love. You have watched for us to return to your loving arms, whether from our wandering from or our discipleship in you. May our gifts of love given today build a home of light and love where all may find welcome and forgiveness in your redeeming grace. In Christ's our Savior's name, we pray. Amen

*CLOSING HYMN *We Love Your Realm, O God* (see attached music)

*BENEDICTION

LENTEN CANDLE EXTINGUISHING LITANY

One: In this season of Lent, we are reminded of God's promise of forgiveness when we repent and return. Though the lights of our lives might seem to diminish, Christ, our eternal light, will always shine in the darkness of night, guiding us home to God's eternal love. Let us pray.

Many: Loving God, we thank you that you are with us, and that we may call upon you no matter where we are, or what we are feeling. Keep us mindful of your presence and trusting in your promise—that you are working with us in the moment-by-moment unfolding of our lives. Amen.

POSTLUDE Hands and Feet

**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**

Serving in Worship Today

Reverend Duane A. Lahti

Liturgist: Caridad Ramos

Ministers of Music: Laurel Filzen Etzel, Greg Etzel

Accompanist: Mary Tallitsch

Greeter: Walt Lysell

Slide Ministry: Lindsey Svetlick

Fellowship Hour: Camilla, Kendall & Charlie Johnson, Kathy Lewis, Ken Curtis, Bob Morales

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

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
 2 Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery trou - bled breast;
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy life re - ceive;

9
 fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing; all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown,
 let us all in thee in - her - it; let us find the prom - ised rest.
 sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave.

17
 Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion; pure, un - bound - ed love thou art;
 Take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be;
 Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, serve thee as thy hosts a - bove,

25
 vis - it us with thy sal - va - tion; en - ter ev - ery trembling heart.
 end of faith, as its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 pray, and praise thee with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.

Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

290

*George Croly, 1854; alt.**Gal. 5:25; Matt. 22:37; John 1:32*

1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
 2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,
 3 Have you not bid us love you ev - ery way?
 4 Teach me to feel that you are al - ways nigh;
 5 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,

wean it from earth, through all its puls - es move;
 no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,
 All, all your own: soul, heart, and strength, and mind;
 teach me the strug - gles of the soul to bear,
 one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame;

Stoop to my weak - ness, might - y as you are,
 No an - gel vis - i - tant, no o - pening skies;
 I see your cross— there teach my heart to stay:
 To check the ris - ing doubt, the reb - el sigh;
 The bap - tism of the heaven - de - scend - ed dove,

and make me love you as I ought to love.
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
 O let me seek you, and O let me find.
 teach me the pa - tience of un - an - swered prayer.
 my heart an al - tar, and your love the flame.

George Croly, ordained in the Church of Ireland, was well known in London literary circles and served a poor parish. This hymn is from a collection he compiled for that congregation. Hellsponi was the original name for the tune Morecambe.

Tune: MORECAMBE 10.10.10.10.
 Frederick C. Atkinson, 1870

O God, How We Have Wandered

202

Kevin Nichols, 1980; alt.

Luke 15:11-32; 2 Cor. 5:16-20

1 O God, how we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;
 2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,
 3 O God of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,

In fool - ish - ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.
 By faith we are re - turn - ing with hope and trust in you.
 Com - pas - sion - ate, for - giv - ing, our peace and hope as - sured.

But how, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we turn with fear and shame,
 In haste you come to meet us, and home re - joic - ing bring,
 Grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.

As dis - tant but com - pell - ing, you call us each by name.
 In glad - ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.
 Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

The tune for this contemporary text appears five times in J. S. Bach's St. Matthew Passion, and first appeared as a hymn setting in the early 1800s. It has an ecomenical history reaching back many centuries. Originally it was a German love song.

Tune: PASSION CHORALE 7.6.7.6.D.
 (HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN)
 Melody by Hans Leo Hasler, 1601
 Harm. J. S. Bach, 1729
 For another harmonization, see 179

We Love Your Realm, O God

312

Timothy Dwight, 1801
Adapt. Lavon Bayler, 1992

Ps. 26:8

1 We love your realm, O God, all plac - es where you reign.
2 We love your church, O God, for Christ has giv - en life
3 We rec - og - nize, with pain, that we have not a - chieved
4 Yet Christ, our friend and guide, con - tin - ues to for - give,

We rec - og - nize, with hope and joy, the world as your do - main.
To form com - mu - ni - ties of love that seek to heal our strife.
The faith - ful - ness of our re - solve when we at first be - lieved.
De - liv - ering us from our mis - takes, in - vit - ing us to live.

5 Be - yond our bro - ken - ness,
we seek to know your ways
Of deep com - mu - nion, sol - emn vows,
and hymns of love and praise.

6 We know your truth will last.
We trust your reign is sure.
E - quip us for those dai - ly tasks
that help your world en - dure.

This poem by Lavon Bayler, a United Church of Christ minister, was inspired by and modeled after the oldest commonly used American hymn, "I Love Thy Kingdom" by Timothy Dwight.

Tune: ST. THOMAS S.M.
Williams' New Universal Psalmist, 1770