



*Hope Congregational Church
United Church of Christ*

120 Wampanoag Trail
East Providence, Rhode Island 02915
Tel. (401) 434-2415 FAX (401) 434-2041

E-mail: hopechurchep@verizon.net
[Facebook.com/HopeChurchRI](https://www.facebook.com/HopeChurchRI)

Rev. Robert W. Nolan, Pastor
Cell (401) 339-6134
Email: nolan062400@gmail.com

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

Feast of the Epiphany/Communion Sunday

January 8, 2023

10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

INTROIT “O Sing a Song of Bethlehem” (verse 1) No. 242

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: I put all my hope in the Lord.

All: He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise for our God.

One: Many people will learn of this and be amazed;

All: They will trust the Lord.

One: Those who put their trust in the Lord, who pay no attention to the proud or to those who follow lies, are truly happy!

All: You, Lord my God! You’ve done so many things - your wonderful deeds and your plans for us - no one can compare with you!

*HYMN “Angels from the Realms of Glory” No. 189

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

Let us pray. (Time for personal reflection and confession)

All: Today we live in a world that is still covered by darkness, and still needing to make that journey to the stable door. May our lives reflect your light day by day, as we seek to serve where you have placed us. That we might be the means through which others can encounter Jesus Christ. Amen.

**If you are able to do so comfortably, please stand.*

PASTOR - Rev. Robert Nolan
MUSIC DIRECTOR - Kim Kuda
DEACON & LAY READER - Margaret McKiernan
MUSIC TEAM - Andrew Foster, Sangho Nam, Kim Kuda

NEWS AND NOTES

1. **A very special welcome this morning to our new settled Pastor, Rev. Bob Nolan.** Rev. Bob will have office hours on **Tuesdays** and **Thursdays** and would also **like to visit our members** when they are available. If you are interested, please call Shirley and she will set up an appointment for you.
2. The **Annual Meeting of Hope Church** will be held on **Sunday, January 22, 2023** after worship. **Annual Reports are due to the office by tomorrow, January 9th, preferably by email.**
3. The **3 M's group** will have their **monthly Luncheon Meeting on Tuesday, January 10th** at 12 noon at Twin Oaks in Cranston. All are welcome! Please let Sarah Tonole know if you plan to attend.
4. The **"Get Crafty"** group meets on **Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.** Please bring your own crafts to work on as we enjoy fellowship with one another. Leave your stress at home! Everyone is welcome!
5. Don't forget your used clothing for the **St. Pauly shed.**
6. **In light of the contagions with the emerging strains of Covid, we are encouraging people to wear masks, even if vaccinated, during worship.** Everyone will also be expected to sign in on our contact list.

If you are unable to attend the regular worship service of Hope Church in person on any given Sunday, the following is the information needed to livestream the service on YouTube or any time after and to get the Sunday bulletin to follow along with the service. A link to this week's livestream service and bulletin as well as those from past weeks is available at: hopecongrgri.org/?page_id=90. You can click on the "plus" mark for that week.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Arise, shine, for the Light of the World has come! Darkness covers the earth and its people, but the radiance of God's Light burns away its shadows, illuminates the smallest corner, and heralds in the start of a new dawn, where hearts no longer fear, souls might be set free, and sister shall follow brother, nation shall follow nation, and kings and princes bow down in awe before the one who comes to reign. Arise, shine, for the Light of the World has come!

All: Alleluia! Amen!

*GLORIA PATRI

No. 734

A TIME FOR CHILDREN

PASSING THE PEACE

One: God calls us to create a community which welcomes all:
To care and love unconditionally,
To free us and create a welcome for all.
May the Peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

One: Let share that welcome with each other, that Love!

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 2:1-12 (NRSVUE)

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.' "

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

SERMON "Saving Dreams"

*HYMN "When Mary Hugged Her Newborn Son" Insert

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastoral Prayer (including prayer concerns)

Time of Silent Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

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 Response "Let the Church Say Amen"

Let the church say amen, Let the church say amen,
Altogether, let the church say amen.

DELIGHTING IN GIVING (Plates are at the back of the sanctuary.)

Invitation to Present Our Offerings

Offertory "O God of Light, May Your Light Shine"

*Doxology "Give Thanks" No. 359

*Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

Generous Love, bless these offerings. Stir up the gifts within for your glory, show your provision through the sharing of our resources, and empower us to steward our days as precious and holy. Amen.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

UCC Statement of Faith Back of hymnal

Communion Prayer/Words of Institution

One: Let us gather around the table with the offering of bread and drink upon it and the promise of the Living Christ among us. This is the welcome table of God where all who seek to be at peace with their neighbor and all who seek the mercy of God in Christ are embraced. Come, for we are invited in to this holy mystery. Come.

All: We are ready!

One: Jesus said: "I am the bread of life. All who come to me shall not hunger, and all who believe in me shall never be thirsty.

All: We are hungry and thirsty. O Lamb of God, we come!

One: We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took his authority as the Christ and offered the bread in thanksgiving and said . . .

All: "Take, eat. This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

One: In the same way, and by the same authority, Jesus offered the cup in thanksgiving and said,

All: "Take, drink. This is my blood of the new covenant which is poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it in remembrance of me."

One: Come, Holy Spirit. Come. Open our eyes to the mystery of Christ's presence in these ordinary things in these our ordinary lives. May they be for us the very essence of the living Christ in our midst. Through the broken bread . . .

All: We participate in the Body of Christ.

One: Through the cup of blessing . . .

All: We participate in the new life Christ gives.

Hymn "The Bread That We Share"

Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison)

Gracious and loving God, you have made us one in the body of Christ, and nourished us at your table with holy food and drink. Thank you for feeding our hunger and relieving our thirst. Now send us into the world to do the work you have given us to do: to find the lost and lonely, to heal the broken souls, to free prisoners, and make the powerful care. Grant us strength to persevere in resisting evil, and to proclaim in all we say and do your good news in Christ Jesus our Savior. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN "As with Gladness" No. 236

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION - We invite you to sing with us:

*Now may the God of love fill you with joy and peace in believing.
May you abound in all joy, may you abound in all hope.
By the power of the spirit, the spirit of God,
The spirit of God be with you.*