

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. Rev. Bob's regular **office hours** are on **Tuesdays** and **Thursdays**. He would also **like to visit with our members** when they are available in the office or at their home. If you are interested, please call Shirley, and she will set up an appointment for you.
2. 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!
3. Don't forget your used clothing for the **St. Pauly shed**.
4. **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: [hopecongri.org/?page\\_id=90](http://hopecongri.org/?page_id=90). You can click on the "plus" mark for that week.



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# WORSHIP CELEBRATION

*Fourth Sunday after Epiphany*

**January 29, 2023**

**10:00 a.m.**

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

INTROIT                      “All Are Welcome”                      Insert

CALL TO WORSHIP    (inspired by Psalm 15)

One: Holy One, who may abide in your sanctuary? Who may dwell in your sacred creation?

**All: Those who do justice. Those who confront inequities and uplift the oppressed.**

One: Holy One, who may abide in your sanctuary? Who may dwell in your sacred creation?

**All: Those who love kindness. Those who love neighbor, friend, and foe.**

One: Holy One, who may abide in your sanctuary? Who may dwell in your sacred creation?

**All: Those who walk humbly with you. Those who follow your lead and answer your call.**

\*HYMN                      “Gather Us In”                      No. 649

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Just and Loving God, we enter into your sacred spaces, in sanctuaries and in homes, in public gatherings and private places. You bridge time and space to forge us as a beloved community.

**All: You, O Sovereign, make plain the way of life for us. Encourage us to join your journey, to love your children and creation, and to contribute to your kin\_dom on earth. Amen.**

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

\*ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

One: Receive the good news that each day presents a new opportunity to follow the way of Jesus - to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. The grace of the Holy One meets us. God embraces and supports us in the turning and will be faithful to strengthen us on the path of righteousness.

**All: Alleluia! Amen!**

\*GLORIA PATRI

No. 734

PASSING THE PEACE

Rev. Bob: 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's share that welcome with each other, that Love!

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 5:1-12 (The Message)

When Jesus saw his ministry drawing huge crowds, he climbed a hillside. Those who were apprenticed to him, the committed, climbed with him. Arriving at a quiet place, he sat down and taught his climbing companions. This is what he said:

“You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule.

“You're blessed when you feel you've lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you.

“You're blessed when you're content with just who you are—no more, no less. That's the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can't be bought.

“You're blessed when you've worked up a good appetite for God. He's food and drink in the best meal you'll ever eat.

“You're blessed when you care. At the moment of being 'care-full,' you find yourselves cared for.

“You're blessed when you get your inside world—your mind and heart—put right. Then you can see God in the outside world.

“You're blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. That's when you discover who you really are, and your place in God's family.

“You’re blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution. The persecution drives you even deeper into God’s kingdom.

“Not only that—count yourselves blessed every time people put you down or throw you out or speak lies about you to discredit me. What it means is that the truth is too close for comfort and they are uncomfortable. You can be glad when that happens—give a cheer, even!—for though they don’t like it, *I* do! And all heaven applauds. And know that you are in good company. My prophets and witnesses have always gotten into this kind of trouble.

SERMON                    **“The Courage to Be Blessed”**

\*HYMN                    “We Are the Light of the World”                    Insert

#### PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastoral Prayer (including prayer concerns)

Time of Silent Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer (using “debts” and “debtors”)

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                    “Blest Are They”                    Music Team

\*Doxology                    “Give Thanks”                    No. 359

\*Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

**Just God, we share our humble offering in hope and trust that,  
through these gifts, your kin\_dom comes, and your will is done.  
Amen.**

\*CLOSING HYMN                    “We Are Called”                    Insert

\*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.*