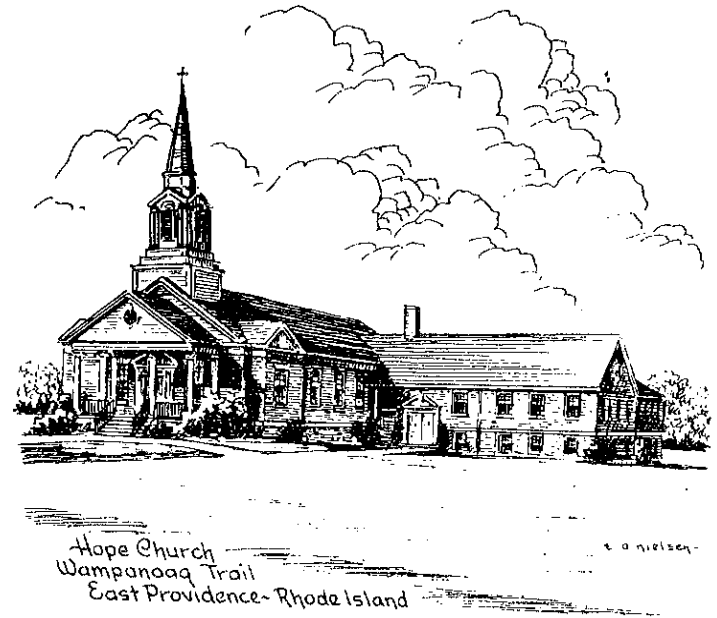


## NEWS AND NOTES

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. **Coming Event: Sunday, April 23** - We will have a guest speaker, Kathryn Bothelo, from Communities for People.
3. 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!
4. Don't forget your used clothing for the **St. Pauly shed**.
5. **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: [hopecongr.org/?page\\_id=90](http://hopecongr.org/?page_id=90). You can click on the "plus" mark for that week.



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## WORSHIP CELEBRATION

*Fifth Sunday after Epiphany/Communion Sunday*

**January 29, 2023**

**10:00 a.m.**

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

INTROIT “We Have Come to Join in Worship” (verse 1) No. 647

CALL TO WORSHIP (inspired by Psalm 112:1-10)

One: Praise the Holy One! Be in awe of God!

**All: Happy are those who delight in the Holy One’s presence!**

One: Fear no evil. Keep your heart firm. Be secure in God!

**All: Happy are those who delight in the Holy One’s protection!**

One: Arise for what is right. Be pursuers of justice.

**All: Happy are those who delight in the Holy One’s power!**

\*HYMN “This Is My Father’s World” No. 21

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Righteous One, it is not easy to follow your path. Your way requires sacrifice and intention - resisting culture norms and society pressures and abandoning our need to control and to function from our own power. Sometimes, we add complexity in order to assure ourselves it is not possible to be faithful.

Yet, your way is simple. So often our hearts and encourage us to return to the journey with you.

**All: Call us back to follow your plan and purpose. Amen!**

\*ASSURANCE OF GOD’S GRACE

One: God, who is faithful, can redeem our detours and misdirection on the journey for our good and the good of others. God’s invitation to covenantal life has no expiration date, and the Holy One receives us with joy and grace when we take even a step toward the kin\_dom.

**All: Alleluia! Amen!**

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

TIME FOR CHILDREN

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 5:13-20 (The Message)

“Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You've lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage.

“Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.

“Don't suppose for a minute that I have come to demolish the Scriptures—either God's Law or the Prophets. I'm not here to demolish but to complete. I am going to put it all together, pull it all together in a vast panorama. God's Law is more real and lasting than the stars in the sky and the ground at your feet. Long after stars burn out and earth wears out, God's Law will be alive and working.

“Trivialize even the smallest item in God's Law and you will only have trivialized yourself. But take it seriously, show the way for others, and you will find honor in the kingdom. Unless you do far better than the Pharisees in the matters of right living, you won't know the first thing about entering the kingdom.

SERMON

“The Flavors and Colors of God”

\*HYMN

“Taste and See”

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 "Seek Ye First" Music Team

\*Doxology "Give Thanks" No. 359

\*Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

**God of Heaven and Earth, receive our gifts as a deposit of trust in your faithfulness and a seed of hope for the flourishing of your kin\_dom. Amen.**

## CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

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 into 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!**

UCC Statement of Faith Back of hymnal

Communion Prayer/Words of Institution

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: Let us pray...Bless us, therefore, by your Holy Spirit that we receive the consecrated bread and fruit of the vine at this table, we may offer you our faith and praise, we may be united with Christ and one another, and we may continue faithful in all things.

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.**

One: These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Let us share the bread and cup together!

Sharing of the Elements

Hymn "Blest Are Those Who Love You" Music Team

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 "This Little Light of Mine" 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.*

PASTOR - Rev. Robert Nolan

MINISTER OF MUSIC - Kim Kuda

DEACON & LAY READER - Cora Rose

MUSIC TEAM - Andrew Foster, Sangho Nam, Kim Kuda