

the one already laid: Jesus Christ. Take particular care in picking out your building materials. Eventually there is going to be an inspection. If you use cheap or inferior materials, you'll be found out. The inspection will be thorough and rigorous. You won't get by with a thing. If your work passes inspection, fine; if it doesn't, your part of the building will be torn out and started over. But *you* won't be torn out; you'll survive—but just barely.

SERMON                   **“Foundations and Expectations”**

\*HYMN                    “Open My Eyes, That I May See”                   No. 480

#### 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                   “When Hands Reach Out”                   Music Team

\*Doxology                   “Give Thanks”                               No. 359

\*Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

**God who gives the increase, receive these gifts and magnify  
them for your kin\_dom. Continually grow generosity in us and  
be glorified. Amen.**

\*CLOSING HYMN “Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”   No. 748

\*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.*



## *Hope Congregational Church United Church of Christ*

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## WORSHIP CELEBRATION

*Sixth Sunday after Epiphany*

February 12, 2023

10:00 a.m.

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

INTROIT “There Is Joy in Serving Jesus” Insert

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (inspired by Sirach 15:15-20)

One: Great is the wisdom of the Holy One, powerful and knowing.

**All: God gives us the choice to follow and to be faithful.**

One: Great is the wisdom of the Holy One, powerful and knowing.

**All: God offers fire to warm us and water to quench our thirst.**

One: Great is the wisdom of the Holy One, powerful and knowing.

**All: God considers us with care and knows our ways.**

\*HYMN “Called as Partners in Christ’s Service” No. 581

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Righteous God, in you we find life and liberty, compassion and care, redemption and reconciliation. You make your ways known to us, and you recognize your people as we are - fully human and made in your image. You come to us, and we come to you. Let us meet in this time and place. Let us bring our hope and our fears, our joys and our sorrows, our successes and our disappointment - the fullness of this glorious and maddening life toward you assured that you meet us here.

**All: Holy God, your fire warms our hearts when they grow cold to the pain of the world, shines brightly to illuminate the shadows where we hide from you, and provides fuel to energize us when we grow weary of the work. Revive us again, O God, revive us. Amen.**

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

### ASSURANCE OF GOD’S GRACE

One: God with Us knows the feeling of fatigue, the despair of doing hard things, and the frustration of a world that has turned from the Holy One. God is faithful to refresh us, renew us, and revive us.

**All: Alleluia! Amen!**

\*GLORIA PATRI

No. 734

### 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 1 Corinthians 3:1-15 (The Message)

But for right now, friends, I’m completely frustrated by your unspiritual dealings with each other and with God. You’re acting like infants in relation to Christ, capable of nothing much more than nursing at the breast. Well, then, I’ll nurse you since you don’t seem capable of anything more. As long as you grab for what makes you feel good or makes you look important, are you really much different than a babe at the breast, content only when everything’s going your way? When one of you says, “I’m on Paul’s side,” and another says, “I’m for Apollos,” aren’t you being totally childish?

Who do you think Paul is, anyway? Or Apollos, for that matter? Servants, both of us—servants who waited on you as you gradually learned to entrust your lives to our mutual Master. We each carried out our servant assignment. I planted the seed, Apollos watered the plants, but *God* made you grow. It’s not the one who plants or the one who waters who is at the center of this process but God, who makes things grow. Planting and watering are menial servant jobs at minimum wages. What makes them worth doing is the God we are serving. You happen to be God’s field in which we are working.

Or, to put it another way, you are God’s house. Using the gift God gave me as a good architect, I designed blueprints; Apollos is putting up the walls. Let each carpenter who comes on the job take care to build on the foundation! Remember, there is only one foundation,

PASTOR - Rev. Robert Nolan  
MINISTER OF MUSIC - Kim Kuda  
DEACON & LAY READER - Cora Rose  
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. **Providence Bruins Game and Faith Night Skate Night on Friday February 24th at 7:05pm!** Group rate tickets are \$20, all kids receive a FREE P-Bruins Hat, everyone receives a Team Poster and everyone is invited to Skate On The Ice After The Game! If you are interested, please call the church office.
3. **Churches of Riverside Blood Drive - Monday, March 13,** 3:30-7:30, St. Brendan's Church, Riverside - Appointment needed
4. **Coming Event: Sunday, April 23** - We will have a guest speaker, Kathryn Bothelo, from Communities for People.
5. 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!
6. Don't forget your used clothing for the **St. Pauly shed**.
7. **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.