

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

First Sunday in Lent - Holy Communion

March 6, 2022

10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

INTROIT “There’s a Quiet Understanding” No. 701

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The God of our ancestors heard our cries, and saw our oppression when we were slaves in Egypt.

All: God brought us out with a mighty hand and outstretched arm, with signs and wonders God brought us through the wilderness.

One: The Lord, our helper, our refuge, our dwelling place says:

All: “When my people call to me, I will answer them. I will be with them in time of trouble; I will show them salvation.”

One: Let us gather to worship our Creator!

All: Though we have come from many places, we gather as one in worship and praise. Alleluia. Amen.

*HYMN “We Praise You, O God” No. 726

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

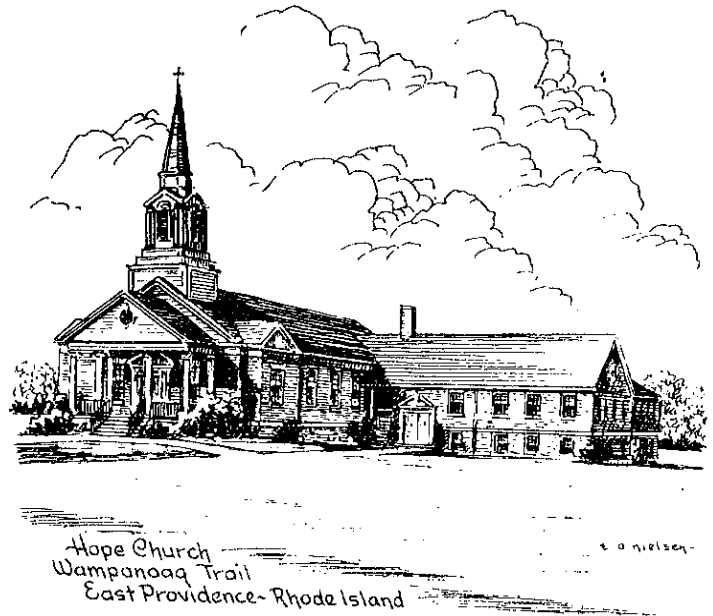
O God, our refuge and fortress, forgive us when we fail to trust in you. We fall to temptation; we are swayed by false words; we speak false words of our own. We choose our ease and comfort over your demanding claims upon us and upon the world. In turning from you, we settle for less than the abundant generosity you intend.

Forgive us, we pray. Do not let us be put to shame, O God. Hear us as we call to you and show us your salvation. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

NEWS AND NOTES

1. We welcome back and thank **Jonathan Ryder** for serving as our guest Pastor for March and April.
2. The **3 M’s group** will have their monthly **Luncheon Meeting** on **Tuesday, March 8th** at 12 noon at Twin Oaks in Cranston. *All are welcome!* Please let Sarah Tonole know if you plan to attend.
3. The **Property & Finance Committee** will meet **Tuesday, March 8th** at 6:00 p.m. at the church building.
4. Don’t forget to **turn your clocks ahead on Saturday night**, so you will be at worship the correct hour next Sunday.
5. **Save the Date - Saturday, April 23rd - All-Church Yard Sale**
Rain Date - April 30th
6. The **“Get Crafty”** group meets every **Thursday from 6:30-8:00 p.m.** You can bring your own crafts to work on or others will be provided. Leave your stress at home! Everyone is welcome!
7. Don’t forget that **“SCRIP” gift cards** are still available to use instead of cash or credit card at your favorite retailer. Some gift cards are readily available or you can place an order for others. Please see Rick Bushnell or contact Shirley in the office for more details or to place an order. This is a great way to financially help the church!
8. Hope Church is open and ready to welcome any members of the community who are in search of a warm and friendly place to worship. **Please invite your friends and neighbors to join us.**
In light of the contagions with the Omicron strain of the virus, we are asking/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. You can click on the "plus" mark for that week.



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***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

One: Scripture declares, the Lord is generous to all who call on God's name. Friends, believe the good news: God does not turn away from us, but desires to bring us into glorious freedom, offered in Jesus Christ. Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved!

All: Thanks be to God.

***GLORIA PATRI**

No. 734

SCRIPTURE READINGS Deuteronomy 26:1-11

When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us." When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, you shall make this response before the LORD your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me." You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

SERMON "A Wandering Aramean was my Ancestor"

***HYMN**

"As We Gather at Your Table"

No. 695

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

(The offering plates are at the back of the sanctuary.)

Invitation to Present Our Offerings

Offertory "For the Life that You Have Given"

*Doxology "Give Thanks" No. 359

*Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

Israel came out of the wilderness and into a land flowing with milk and honey. There they were finally able to offer to God baskets full, in joyful celebration. We, too, bring the first fruits of all that God has so generously given us, with joy and thanksgiving. Amen.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

UCC Statement of Faith

Back of hymnal

Communion Prayer

Sharing of the Bread and Cup (non-alcoholic)

Hymn "We Thank You, O Lord"

Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison)

We thank you for nourishing us at this, your table. We thank you for the cloud of witnesses with whom we have gathered, and with whom we continue to gather. We thank you for the grace you have shown, and for the healing mercy you have given. We thank you that in these simple elements, you have shown us the path to deeper fellowship with you and with each other. May we never take this holy moment for granted. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN "You Give Your Church a Story" Insert

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

GUEST PASTOR - Jonathan Ryder
MUSIC DIRECTOR - Kim Kuda
DEACON & LAY READER - Robin Smith
MUSIC TEAM - Andrew Foster, Dale Magnuson,
Sangho Nam, Kim Kuda

