

NEWS AND NOTES

1. **Rev. Bob** will have his regular office hours this week on **Tuesday and Thursday**. He would also **like to visit with our members** when they are available in the office or at their home. If you are interested, contact the office or Rev. Bob directly.
2. **Later today at 3 p.m., “Pavane” by Gabriel and Other Calming Music to Soothe the Soul** will be presented at **Newman Congregational Church, UCC**. Geoff Greene, Music Minister, along with Chris Turner and the Newman Adult Choir, is presenting this event. A \$10 donation is suggested and a reception will follow in Memorial Hall.
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. A time of sharing where everyone is welcome!
4. Our **All-Church Yard Sale** is scheduled for **this Saturday, April 22, 9-2. Help is needed!** Please call Sarah Tonole at (401) 392-1978 and let her know that you would be willing to help **set up on Friday, April 21 as well as on April 22!** As part of the Yard Sale, there will also be a **Bake Sale of homemade items!** If you would like to bring in items early for the Bake Sale, they could be brought into the office on the **Friday morning!**
5. **Next Sunday, April 23**, we will have a **guest speaker**, Kathryn Bothelo, from Communities for People to speak about their mission work with foster children and families.
6. **Sunday, May 7**, will be a special day of worship at Hope Church, during which we will **honor Shirley Lawson, Church Administrator**, who is retiring after 34 years of service. This will be followed by a social time in the church hall. All are welcome!
7. And don't forget your used clothing for the **St. Pauly shed!**



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)

WORSHIP CELEBRATION
Second Sunday of Easter

April 16, 2023

10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

INTROIT “Morning Has Broken” (verse 1) No. 35

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Dear God, fill us with the power of Resurrection to embrace newness.

All: We are hiding like the disciples behind closed doors with fears and doubts, waiting for your appearance.

One: Refresh us, O God, and empower us.

All: As we worship today, blow into us your gentle spirit!

*HYMN “Fairest Lord Jesus” No. 123

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Loving God, we confess that many a time, we are more doubters than believers. We doubt your love for us when we see the oppression, sickness, death, violence against nature, wars, and hatred against each other. Help us to recognize these outcomes of our selfishness, greed, and the evil spirit of dominance.

All: Through the death and resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, help us to understand your sacrificial love for us so that we will love one another. Help us to learn from the courage of Jesus to take up the cross to stand against oppression. Enlighten us as we celebrate resurrection to rise again and again to annihilate injustice and to create peace in this world. Amen.

LITANY OF ASSURANCE

One: Jesus presented his wounded and scarred body to his disciples. The body of the resurrected Jesus showcased the wounds caused by oppressive power struggles, ugly human envy, and fear of dismantling the status quo.

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

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

SERMON **"Wounds and Doubt"**

*HYMN "God, Your Gift of Peace Is Precious" 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 Music "Give Us Your Peace" Music Team

*Doxology "Alleluia No. 1"

(Refrain)

*Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord,
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to His name!*

*Spread the good news o'er all the earth.
Jesus has died and has risen. (Refrain)*

*Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

Anoint these gifts, Generous God, that they may fulfill their purpose. Through the help, hope, unique passions and skills, and faithful companionship with our community, may we impart hope, render joy, and participate as resurrected in your kin_dom. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN "O God, You Tell Us of a Day" Insert

*BENEDICTION

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

"This Is the Day!"

*This is the day that the Lord has made
Let us rejoice and be glad!*

PASTOR - Rev. Robert Nolan
MINISTER OF MUSIC - Kim Kuda
DEACON & LAY READER - Lori Russell
MUSIC TEAM - Andrew Foster, Dot Leone,
Dale Magnuson, Sangho Nam, Kim Kuda



All: We praise you Lord that the disciples were able to embrace the broken body of Jesus so that they could give their bodies to be broken to establish God's peace in this world.

One: Even today, we witness the wounds of several bodies that have their voice against injustice, legs broken because they marched for justice, hands broken because they raised them against oppressive forces, and bodies tortured because they identified with victims of injustice.

All: Give us the courage, Lord, not to fear over these battered bodies but to embrace these bodies to gain strength and righteous anger to continue to work for justice.

One: Today, the wounded body of the earth and earth communities speaks to us and shares with us the stories of the brutality of colonization, industrial violence on the earth, and subjugation of the eco-wisdom of the indigenous and traditional communities.

All: Help us, Lord, today to embrace the broken body of the earth and the victims of climate change. Give us your wisdom to see that resurrection occurs in restoring peace with the earth and earth communities.

*GLORIA PATRI

No. 734

TIME FOR ALL AGES

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's share that welcome with each other, that Love!

SCRIPTURE READING

John 20:19-31

(NRSV)

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."