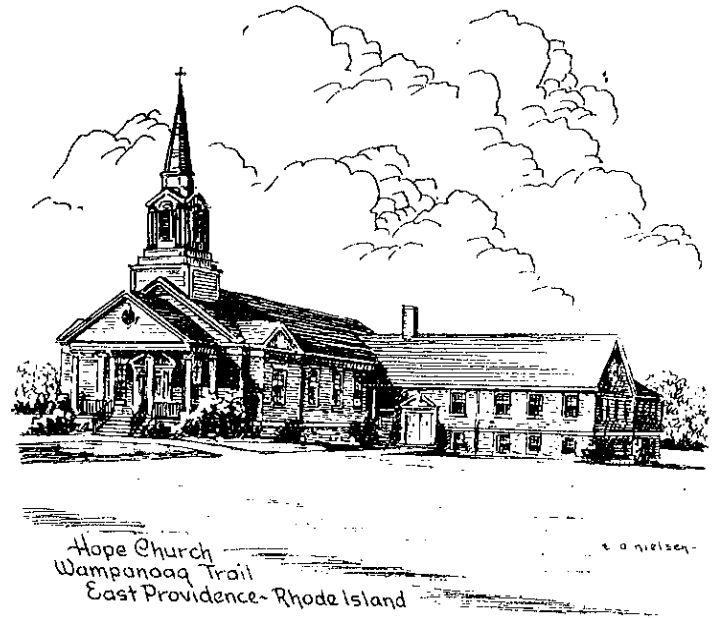


NEWS AND NOTES

1. Today is a special day of worship at Hope Church, in which we **honor Shirley Lawson, Church Administrator**, who retired Friday after 34 years of service. Worship today will be followed by a social time in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome!
2. **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.
3. **Our new Office Administrator, Chris Jaworski**, will have her office hours, Tuesday-Thursday, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
4. The **Property and Finance Committee will meet Tuesday, May 9**, at 6:00 p.m.
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. A time of sharing where everyone is welcome!
6. **Next Sunday, Mother’s Day, May 14th**, will be **Blanket Sunday**, *“Blanket the World In Love”*. More information appeared in the May/June issue of “Hope Happenings”.
7. The churches of Riverside are hosting a **Blood Drive on Monday, June 5**, from **3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at St. Brendan’s Church**, Riverside - An appointment is needed by calling the RI Blood Center 401-453-8383) or at: customerservice@ribc.org
8. And don’t forget your used clothing for the **St. Pauly shed!**



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WORSHIP CELEBRATION
Fifth Sunday of Easter - Holy Communion
Farewell to Shirley

*“No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey,
you are welcome here!”*

May 7, 2023

10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

INTROIT

“All Are Welcome”

Insert

*CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Jeremiah 6)

One: Thus says the Lord of hosts: Glean thoroughly as a vine the remnant of Israel; like a grape gatherer, pass your hand again over its branches.

All: To whom shall I speak and give warning, that they may hear? See, their ears are closed; they cannot listen. The word of the Lord is to them an object of scorn; they take no pleasure in it.

One: Their houses shall be turned over to others, their field and wives together; for I will stretch out my hand against the inhabitants of their land, says the Lord.

All: They have treated the wound of my people carelessly, saying, “Peace, peace,” when there is no peace.

One: Thus says the Lord: Stand at the crossroads and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way lies; and walk in it and find rest for your souls.

All: I am going to bring upon you a nation from far away, O house of Israel, says the Lord. It is an enduring nation.

*HYMN

“Count Your Blessings”

Insert

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

One: 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

(Congregation will approach the Deacon and Pastor, take a piece of bread and dip in the cup.)

Hymn "When Hands Reach Out" 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 "How Great Thou Art" No. 51

*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 - Margaret McKiernan

MUSIC TEAM - Andrew Foster, Dot Leone,

Dale Magnuson, Sangho Nam, Kim Kuda

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Holy God, we were not able to love You with all our hearts and love our neighbor as ourselves. We wanted to be forgiven, but we could not forgive others. Please give us the grace of forgiveness so that we can get back on our feet today.

There are still conflicts in this world.

All: Conflicts and battles can only lead us to hatred. Please give us Your will and wisdom to overcome conflicts and live together. Lead us to a new step, free from hatred and conflict. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

One: Let us pray. . . There are so many who walk in the shadows of fear and suffering and despair. We offer our prayers for the broken and bleeding places in this world. We also offer our prayers for the sheep of our own flocks, in our families and friends, in this our church and our community.

All: God hears our prayers. May our sins be cleansed, and we be remade as peacemakers. May God be with those who are in pain, suffering, and hardship right now. This is what the Lord says: "I have swept away your offense like a cloud, your sins like the morning mist. Return to me, for I have redeemed you."

*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 14:1-14 (The Message)

"Don't let this rattle you. You trust God, don't you? Trust me. There is plenty of room for you in my Father's home. If that weren't so, would I have told you that I'm on my way to get a room ready for you? And if I'm on my way to get your room ready, I'll come back and get you so you can live where I live. And you already know the road I'm taking."

Thomas said, "Master, we have no idea where you're going. How do you expect us to know the road?"

Jesus said, "I am the Road, also the Truth, also the Life. No one gets to the Father apart from me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him. You've even seen him!"

Philip said, "Master, show us the Father; then we'll be content."

"You've been with me all this time, Philip, and you still don't understand? To see me is to see the Father. So how can you ask, 'Where is the Father?' Don't you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I speak to you aren't mere words. I don't just make them up on my own. The Father who resides in me crafts each word into a divine act.

"Believe me: I am in my Father and my Father is in me. If you can't believe that, believe what you see—these works. The person who trusts me will not only do what I'm doing but even greater things, because I, on my way to the Father, am giving you the same work to do that I've been doing. You can count on it. From now on, whatever you request along the lines of who I am and what I am doing, I'll do it. That's how the Father will be seen for who he is in the Son. I mean it. Whatever you request in this way, I'll do.

SERMON **"The Long and Winding Road"**

*HYMN "Because He Lives" No. 447

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 Acapella Gospel Hymn Medley The Lawson Family

"Sing and Be Happy"

"To Canaan's Land, I'm on my Way"

"I'll Fly Away"

*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)

Holy God, we have received so much blessing from You to walk through this past week. We are grateful for the blessings You have given us, and we return some of them to You. Please use it for your work. In Jesus Christ's name. 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.