



**Hope Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
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**Rev. Robert W. Nolan, Pastor
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Hope Congregational UCC

Order of Worship 07-09-2023, 10:30 AM

6th Sunday after Pentecost

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

- *Where you see this, please stand.*

Gathering Music:

Drew Manlove

**Welcome & Announcements (see back of
bulletin)**

Deacon

- **Call to Worship**

One: Life-Giving God, you have called us to the fountain of new life, new vision, new hope, new fellowship with you and with one another.

Many: We come rejoicing! You kept your promise.

One: Faithful God, you promised never to leave or forsake us.

Many: We come in victory! You kept your promise.

One: We are here to lift up Holy hands!

Many: All-Powerful, Sustaining God, you promised to set us free from the law of sin and death.

One: We are the Kindom of God!

All: ***We come with hearts of thanksgiving and our minds are stayed on you because you kept your promise. Hallelujah!***

- **Opening Hymn: “Community of Christ”
No. 615**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Deacon: God, let us count the ways you never leave us. Your Light of Day greeted us this morning. The smell of the crisp air of a new day. The melody of the birds whispered your love in our ears. These are among the Good Morning gifts we give thanks for. Another day in your Precious Presence.

All: **Come what may this day, angry traffic, angry words, paved or unpaved roads, we will praise your Holy Name! And so, we greet you this day with shouts of joy and thanksgiving. Amen.**

Assurance of God's Grace

One: Let us pray

God invites us to his healing presence with these words: "I am the Lord who heals you."

Disease, depressed, dysfunctional, defeated, we come hungering for health that only God can provide.

All: God calls us to bring open eyes, hearing ears, and tender hearts turned toward God, the Great Physician. We bow before God in faith and expectancy!

- **Gloria Patri**

No. 734

*Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen. Amen.*

TIME FOR ALL AGES

Rev. Bob

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!

Rev. Bob: Let share that welcome with each
other, that Love!

Scripture: Romans 7: 14-25 Deacon

¹⁴⁻¹⁶ I can anticipate the response that is coming: “I know that all God’s commands are spiritual, but I’m not. Isn’t this also your experience?” Yes. I’m full of myself—after all, I’ve spent a long time in sin’s prison. What I don’t understand about myself is that I decide one way, but then I act another, doing things I absolutely despise. So, if I can’t be trusted to figure out what is best for myself and then do it, it becomes obvious that God’s command is necessary.

¹⁷⁻²⁰ But I need something *more*! For if I know the law but still can’t keep it, and if the power of sin within me keeps sabotaging my best intentions, I obviously need help! I realize that I don’t have what it takes. I can will it, but I can’t *do* it. I decide to do good,

but I don't *really* do it; I decide not to do bad, but then I do it anyway. My decisions, such as they are, don't result in actions. Something has gone wrong deep within me and gets the better of me every time.

²¹⁻²³ It happens so regularly that it's predictable. The moment I decide to do good, sin is there to trip me up. I truly delight in God's commands, but it's pretty obvious that not all of me joins in that delight. Parts of me covertly rebel, and just when I least expect it, they take charge.

²⁴ I've tried everything and nothing helps. I'm at the end of my rope. Is there no one who can do anything for me? Isn't that the real question?

²⁵ The answer, thank God, is that Jesus Christ can and does. He acted to set things right in this life of contradictions where I want to serve God with all my heart and mind but am pulled by the influence of sin to do something totally different.

Sermon: "Thinking and Doing" Rev Bob

- Hymn: “O Day of Peace” No. 539

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

PASTORAL PRAYER (INCLUDING PRAYER CONCERNS)

TIME OF SILENT PRAYER

Lord’s Prayer: (using “debts” and “debtors”)

All

Prayer Response: Let the Church Say Amen

All

*Let the church say amen, Let the church say
amen,*

Altogether, let the church say amen.

DELIGHTING IN GIVING

Rev. Bob

Offertory Music:

Drew Manlove

- Doxology: “Alleluia No. 1” No. 291

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

All

In all the yearning for our God, the weakness of desire becomes the strength of God's delight in holding peace for all. Exalted past all-knowing now, may the experience of peace glorify your spirit and meet the needs of your Kindom. In the name of Jesus, the Christ, we pray. Amen and Amen

- Closing Hymn: "Put Peace into Each Other's Hands" No. 389

Benediction

Rev. Bob

BENEDICTION RESPONSE "God Be With You"

*God be with you,
God be with you,
God be with you 'till we meet again.
O---God be with you,
God be with you,
God be with you 'till we meet again.*

Calendar & Announcements

- Rev. Bob will have his regular office hours this week on Tuesday and Thursday. He would also like to visit with everyone in the church office or your home. If you are interested, contact the office on Tuesday thru Thursday, 8AM to 1 PM. You can also contact Rev. Bob directly by phone, (401) 339-6134 or email, nolan062400@gmail.com
- The Hope Church Property and Finance Committee will meet on Tuesday, July 11, at 6PM in the Pickett Room.
- We are searching for a new Music Director and would appreciate any referral by contacting the Music Committee at HopeMusicCommittee@gmail.com
- The “Get Crafty” group has suspended meeting for the summer. They will reconvene in September.
- And don’t forget your used clothing for the St. Pauly shed!