



*Hope Congregational Church
United Church of Christ*

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WORSHIP CELEBRATION

*Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Communion*

September 11, 2022

10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

INTROIT “Fill Us with Your Spirit” Insert

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, beloved of God, the blistering wind of life is not the end.

All: May the eye of the storm still us into wholeness and hope.

One: May the wind of God turn us around toward trust in Holy promises.

All: May our promises to God be pressed anew into our hearts and minds.

One: May everything of excess be released and refined for Love’s good work.

All: May God’s vision of a world made new arise from God’s wind in and through us.

*HYMN “You Call Us, Lord, to Worship” Insert

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

O God, have mercy on us because transgressions and wrong turns have too often been our daily detour. Wash us inside and out with the shower of Your love because our lives carry a residue of regret we cannot shake loose on our own. We know ourselves too well, rehearsing littleness of spirit with a frequency surprising even to us. Now take every burden that crushes, and form in us a new creation. Take every iniquity, and instill your sweet song of forgiveness. Let your wisdom rise in our minds and your mercy in our hearts that we may offer the same grace to others whom you also love. By this grace you give, mending not only us but the world. And may your loving truth form a new creation in us all. Amen.

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

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 "O God, Be Merciful to Me"

*Doxology "Give Thanks" No. 359

*Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

O Love, stretch wide our hearts, open our minds, saturate our souls and form us anew in the gift of this day. Let thanksgiving rise for miracles you place in our paths at every turn. Call forth awe at the miracle of life stirring all around and within these bodies not of our making, but given by You to steward your love for a season short or long. Yes, Love, stretch wide our hearts for this. Use these gifts to help bring your will into action. Guide our hearts and minds to use these gifts to serve You. 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 "Come to the Feast"

Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison)

Holy One, you have put your life into our hands; now we put our lives into yours. Take us, renew and remake us. What we have been is past; what we shall be, through you, still awaits us. Lead us on. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN "Give Peace, O God" Insert

*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.*

GUEST PASTOR - Rev. Korte Yeo

MUSIC DIRECTOR - Kim Kuda

DEACON & LAY READER - Margaret McKiernan

MUSIC TEAM - Andrew Foster, Dale Magnuson,
Sangho Nam, Kim Kuda



***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Hear this good news: God's loving grace is long and stretches over our whole lives. In Christ Jesus, God has let loose a stream of love that perpetually flows as a patient, persistent power. By this, God has forgiven us and invites you and me to join in the journey of justice and joy. May this blessed forgiveness multiply itself in our lives with others. Thanks be to God!

***GLORIA PATRI**

No. 734

SCRIPTURE READING 2 Corinthians 10:7-18

You are judging by appearances. If anyone is confident that they belong to Christ, they should consider again that we belong to Christ just as much as they do. So even if I boast somewhat freely about the authority the Lord gave us for building you up rather than tearing you down, I will not be ashamed of it. I do not want to seem to be trying to frighten you with my letters. For some say, "His letters are weighty and forceful, but in person he is unimpressive and his speaking amounts to nothing." Such people should realize that what we are in our letters when we are absent, we will be in our actions when we are present.

We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise. We, however, will not boast beyond proper limits, but will confine our boasting to the sphere of service God himself has assigned to us, a sphere that also includes you. We are not going too far in our boasting, as would be the case if we had not come to you, for we did get as far as you with the gospel of Christ. Neither do we go beyond our limits by boasting of work done by others. Our hope is that, as your faith continues to grow, our sphere of activity among you will greatly expand, so that we can preach the gospel in the regions beyond you. For we do not want to boast about work already done in someone else's territory. But, "Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord." For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends.

SERMON **"Only Through the Lens of Love"**

***HYMN** **"God, Your Love Is Always Stronger"** Insert

NEWS AND NOTES

1. There will be **NO Worship Services for the next two Sundays - September 18 and 25.**
2. The **3 M's** will have their monthly **Luncheon Meeting on Tuesday, September 13th** at 12 :00 noon at Twin Oaks Restaurant in Cranston. All are welcome! Please let Sarah Tonole know if you plan to attend.
3. **BIG NEWS!! Save the date! Hope Church will be having a Mini-Bazaar on Saturday, November 5.** Watch for further details!
4. The **“Get Crafty”** group meets every **Thursday from 6:30-8:00 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!
5. 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!
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. You can click on the "plus" mark for that week.