

# WORSHIP CELEBRATION

*Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost - Holy Communion*

**November 7, 2021**

**10:00 a.m.**

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

INTROIT

“All Are Welcome”

Insert

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: What joy it is to have you here today!

**All: We have come from very busy lives, filled both with joys and difficulties.**

One: Welcome to this place in which God will ease your burdens and celebrate your joys with you.

**All: We have come to find hope and peace in our lives.**

One: Whatever has happened this week in your life, know that God is with you and offering you peace, rest and blessing.

**All: Thanks be to God who accepts us as we are, and thanks for the warm welcome in this service of worship. Let our worship of God begin now and be never ending as his mercy and grace is towards us. Amen.**

\*HYMN

“We Gather Together”

No. 81

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

**Gracious God, so often we look at ourselves, our gifts and our talents, and wonder what you would do with these offerings. We don't think that we have much to give. So, far too many times, we belittle the gifts and turn our backs on the needs and opportunities present to serve, believing that our gifts cannot possibly make a difference. We think that we must possess the greatest of talents and wealth in order to truly please and serve you. How foolish we are!**

**Forgive us when we stop listening to your healing and comforting words and focus on our anxieties. Heal us, Lord. Help us know that you have given to us such blessings and that these blessings are truly wonderful and meant to be used to give joy and in service to others. Help us to bring our lives, just as they are, to you and to receive your gentle touch and healing grace. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

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

# NEWS AND NOTES

1. A very special welcome this morning to our supply pastor for the month of November, Rev. Russ Chamberlain. Rev. Russ is the Former Director and minister of missions and outreach at Mercy Meals and More of New Bedford and volunteers at the Salvation Army, also in New Bedford.
2. 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 worship.

Those who are fully vaccinated are not required to wear masks during Sunday worship. All others are still required to wear masks except for children under the age of two. Everyone will be expected to sign in on our contact list.

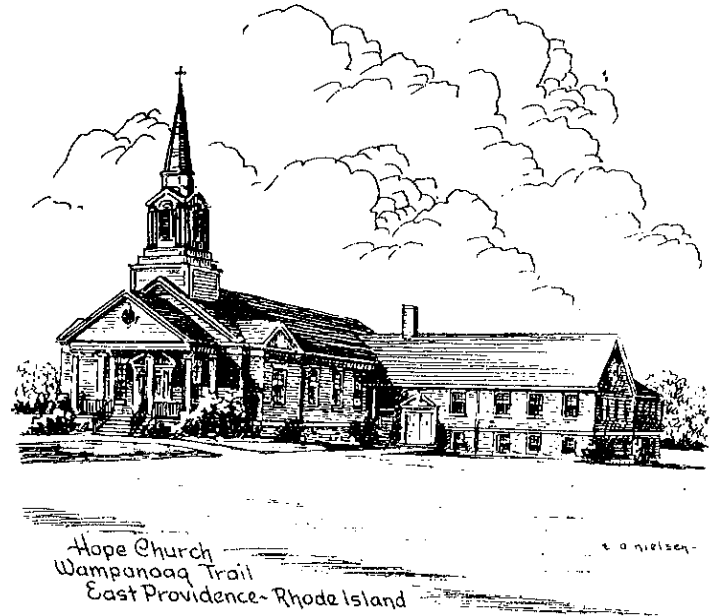
If you are unable to attend the regular worship service of Hope Church in person on any given Sunday, the following is the information needed to livestream the service on YouTube or any time after and to get the Sunday bulletin to follow along with the service. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Andrew Foster of the Digital Ministry Task Force at [afoster@brown.edu](mailto:afoster@brown.edu) or (401) 743-8584. A link to this week's livestream service and bulletin as well as those from past weeks is available at: [hopecongre.org/?page\\_id=90](http://hopecongre.org/?page_id=90). You can click on the "plus" mark for any date to access the youtube address, the bulletin or the sermon title for that week.

3. Now that we are an in-person worship service congregation, Hope Church is in **need of your help and commitment** to serve on any one of the following committees in 2022:

Diaconate  
Music Committee  
Flower Committee  
Ushers & Greeters  
Christian Education  
Christian Growth & Evangelism  
Christian Fellowship  
Council Member-at-large (1)  
Conference Delegates

Please contact one of the following Deacons with your decision:  
Cora Rose, Co-Chair @ (401) 829-0970  
Lori Russell, Co-Chair @ (401) 241-7914

4. **“Get Crafty”** is meeting on **Thursdays at 6:30 pm** at the church building. Come and join the fun and fellowship while working on crafts.



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United Church of Christ*

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\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: God has given to each one of us such blessings and talents.

**All: With joy we bring these gifts to God.**

One: You are blessed by God's absolute love for you.

**All: We rejoice in that love and find healing and hope.**

\*GLORIA PATRI

No. 734

SCRIPTURE READING

John 3:1-21

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

SERMON

“Nighttime Visitors”

\*HYMN

“Pass It On”

No. 557

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

\*Doxology

“Give Thanks”

No. 359

\*Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

**O Lord, you are great and greatly to be praised. Receive these gifts of gratitude and joy and use them in the service of the Gospel. For the glory of your holy name we pray. 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 Meet as Friends at Table”

*Kim Kuda*

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 “They’ll Know We Are Christians” No. 595

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

GUEST PASTOR - Rev. Russ Chamberlain

MUSIC DIRECTOR - Kim Kuda

DEACON & LAY READER - Lori Russell

MUSIC TEAM - Kim Kuda, Andrew Foster