

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

November 14, 2021

10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

INTROIT "His Name Is Wonderful" No. 102

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come worship the Lord who is here in our midst today.

All: There is no Holy One like our God.

One: Like Hannah of old, we raise our voices to praise the Lord of strength.

All: There is no Rock like our God.

One: We prepare to listen and learn with open hearts and open minds.

All: There is no Source of Knowledge like our God.

One: We trust that righteousness will come on the heels of God's judgment.

All: There is no Justice like our God.

One: May the Son of our God lead us in our journey of faith.

All: There is no Guide like our God.

One: Come worship the Lord who is in our midst today.

All: May our worship begin now and be never ending like God's mercy and grace.

*HYMN "We Gather Here" Insert

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Rock of Salvation, you give children to the barren and strength to the feeble; you exalt the poor and lift up the needy. We praise your holy name from morning to night, yet we build walls that separate us: from you, from one another, from the world, even from ourselves. We place stumbling blocks in the way of goodness and truth. We are led astray by promises of earthly treasure. We confess our fallibility and seek solace in the mother of our joy.

Teach us to pray and praise without ceasing each and every day and not to pause in our worship of you, in our confessing hope ceaselessly.

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

NEWS AND NOTES

1. A very special welcome back this morning to our supply pastor for the month of November, Rev. Russ Chamberlain.
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 or (401) 743-8584. 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 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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Guide us as we choose each day to walk by faith and reject the ways of the world. Be with us in our efforts to encourage one another, to work together for good in the world, and to prepare for the day of the Lord. We ask this in the name of Your Son, our Lord and Savior, the Good Shepherd who chose to lay down his life for his sheep. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Our hearts are sprinkled clean and our bodies washed with the water of God's love.

All: Through the gift of Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, God assures us that we are pardoned, forgiven, absolved, and released from our sin when we confess our sins and place our faith in Jesus.

*GLORIA PATRI

No. 734

SCRIPTURE READING

2 Corinthians 5:1-21

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling - if indeed, when we have taken it off we will not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan under our burden, because we wish not to be unclothed but to be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord - for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

SERMON **“Empowering Phone Call”**

*HYMN “I Love to Tell the Story” No. 560

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)

God of the Universe, thank you that your promises are sure, your are faithful, we can rely on you. Your word says that we will find joy in offering our time, talents, and money to meet the needs of others. Help us to give freely, sacrificially and cheerfully towards the work of your kingdom. May you cause the seeds that we sow to grow into well-watered, fruitful trees of life. Lord, bless us and keep us, make your face shine upon us. Turn your face towards us and give us peace. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN “To God Be the Glory” No. 66

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

GUEST PASTOR - Rev. Russ Chamberlain
MUSIC DIRECTOR - Kim Kuda
DEACON & LAY READER - Margaret McKiernan
MUSIC TEAM - Kim Kuda, Andrew Foster



Each year for the Christmas holiday, Hope Church has “Adopt a Family” Christmas stars which appear on a tree outside the office. These are available for any group or individual from the church to take, wishing to make some children extra happy at Christmas. On the stars are the sex, age and likes (gift suggestions) of local children in need of Christmas gifts as suggested by Hope Church members and friends. Please contact Deacon Cora Rose at (401) 431-4002 or at charbee01@msn.com by November 30th if you know of a local family in need of Christmas gift assistance this year. (All names will remain confidential.)

Stars may be taken off the tree outside the office beginning on Sunday, December 5th after worship or you may contact Shirley at the office (434-2415) to pick up a star on a Monday-Friday morning. All wrapped gifts must be into the church office by Friday, December 17th with the star attached to the package.

If you would like to make a monetary donation toward the purchase of “Adopt a Family” gifts, please make checks payable to Hope Church and earmarked “Adopt a Family” and mailed to the church office. Any donation would be greatly appreciated!