



Second Sunday of Lent: Expectant Joy

February 25, 2024 10:30 AM

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

RINGING THE BELL

WELCOME AND MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

PRELUDE

(Indicates that all are invited to stand)*

***CALL TO WORSHIP (1)**

When floods rise and fall, **we practice joy.**

When hope surprises us, **we practice joy.**

When God sets people free, **we practice joy.**

When Jesus heals us, **we practice joy.**

When we are called, **we practice joy.**

When we endure, **we practice joy.**

We practice joy together, **and God is with us.**

*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN “The God of Abraham Praise” #24 *New Century Hymnal*
vv.1, 2, and 4 only

(For full music, the New Century Hymnal is located in each pew rack)

**The God of Abraham praise, all praises to God’s name,
Who was and is and is to be, for e’er the same!
The one eternal God, before what now appears;
The First, the Last: beyond all thought through timeless years!**

**God’s spirit freely flows, high surging where it will;
God spoke of old in prophet’s word; that word speaks still.
Established is God’s law, and changeless it shall stand,
Deep written on the human heart, in every land.**

**The God of Sarah praise, all praises to God’s name,
Who was and is and is to be, for e’er the same!
The one eternal God, before what now appears;
The First, the Last: beyond all thought through timeless years!**

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (1)

God of abundant goodness, we confess we sometimes hurt those we love,
those far from us, ourselves, and your creation by what we do and by what we neglect.
We cling to disappointments, judgments, and failures and forget to enjoy what you give.
We ignore the gift of your presence in times both tragic and triumphant.
Forgive us for what we have done and for what we have failed to do.
Pour out on us the joy of your presence now and forevermore.
(silent confession)

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Friends, receive these joyful words:
We are loved and welcomed as God’s beloved children,
Made new by God’s grace so that we might share its joy with God’s whole world.
Thanks be to God!

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE “Bless the Lord, My Soul” (*Taizé Community*) *(repeat once)*



Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.



Dm G Dm B^b C Dm

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

*PASSING THE PEACE

CONVERSATION WITH OUR CHILDREN

CHORAL ANTHEM

LISTENING

God speaks to us in the Word proclaimed.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

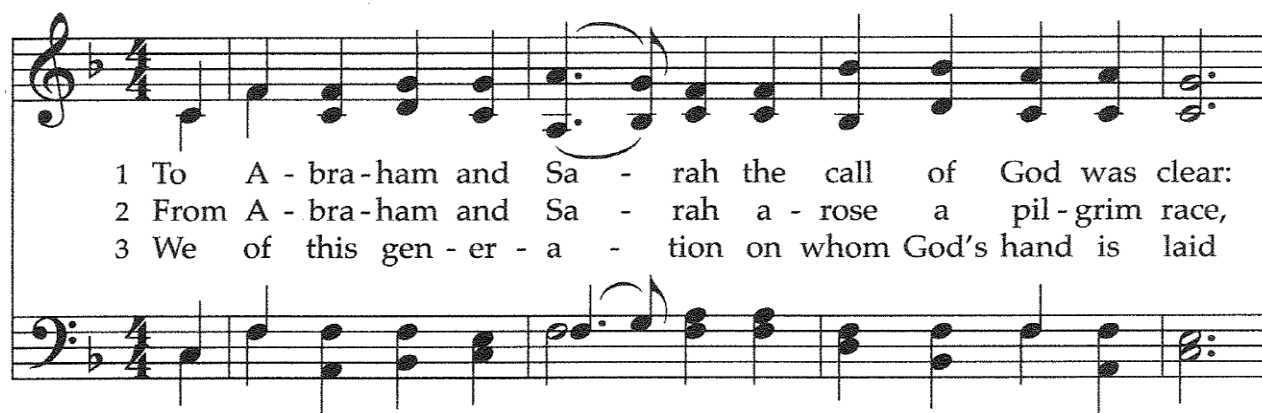
SCRIPTURE READING Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 Pew Bible pp.11-12

A Word of God that is still speaking,
Thanks be to God!

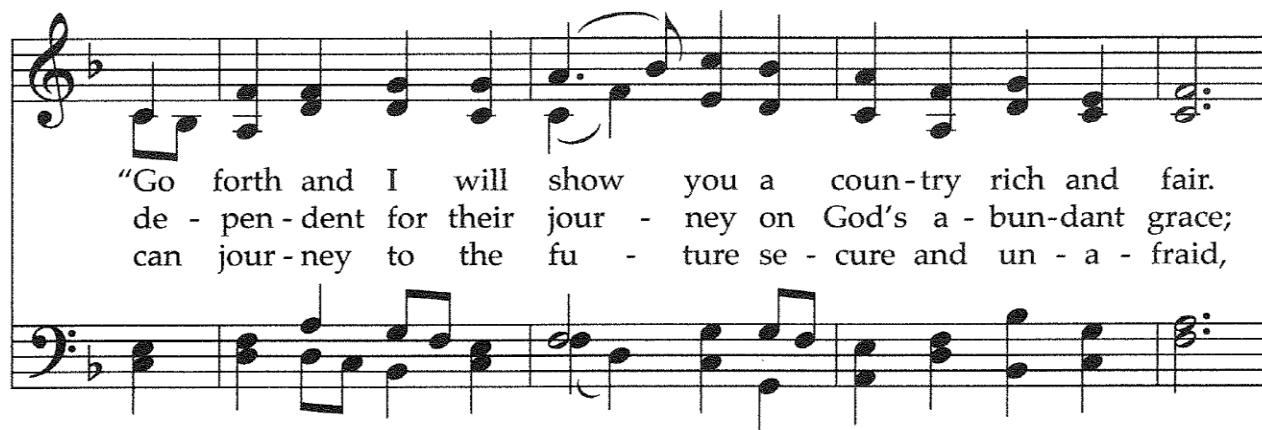
SERMON

SILENT RELECTION

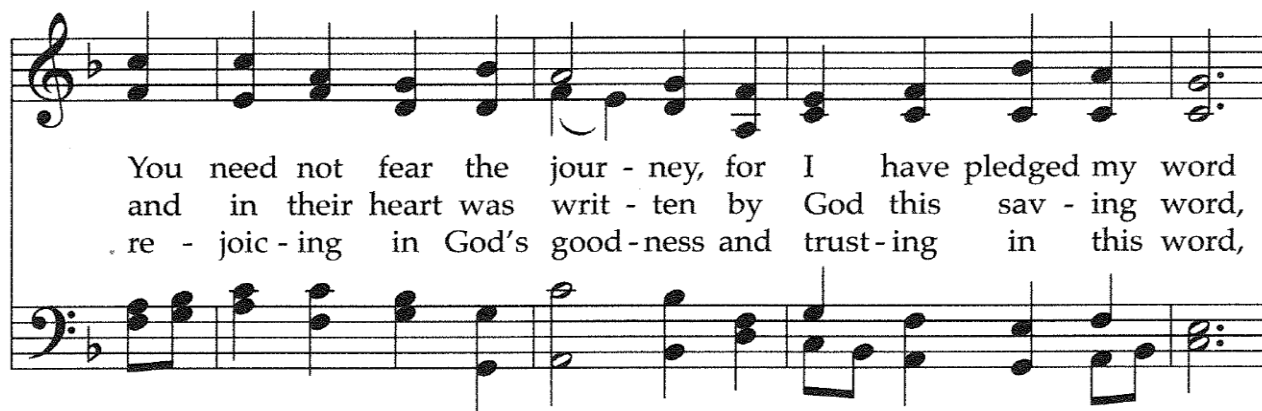
HYMN OF REFLECTION "To Abraham and Sarah" #51 *Glory to God Hymnal*



1 To A - bra - ham and Sa - rah the call of God was clear:
2 From A - bra - ham and Sa - rah a - rose a pil - grim race,
3 We of this gen - er - a - tion on whom God's hand is laid



"Go forth and I will show you a coun - try rich and fair.
de - pen - dent for their jour - ney on God's a - bun - dant grace;
can jour - ney to the fu - ture se - cure and un - a - fraid,



You need not fear the jour - ney, for I have pledged my word
and in their heart was writ - ten by God this sav - ing word,
re - joic - ing in God's good - ness and trust - ing in this word,



that you shall be my peo - ple and I will be your God."
"That you shall be my peo - ple and I will be your God."
"That you shall be my peo - ple and I will be your God."

RESPONDING

We respond to God's Word through our prayers and our gifts.

LENTEN AFFIRMATION (2)

For each step that we might take, **be our guide, O Lord of life.**

For each load that we might bear, **be our strength, O Lord of life.**

For each mountain we might face, **be our power, O Lord of life.**

For each river that might impede, **be our safety, O Lord of life.**

For each place where we might rest, **be our peace, O Lord of life.**

For each sunrise and sunset, **be our joy, O Lord of life.**

NAMING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

CALL TO PRAYER: "Take, O Take Me as I Am" #698 *Glory to God Hymnal*
(repeat once)

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Take, O Take Me as I Am" in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: "Take, O take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall be; set your seal up-on my heart and live in me." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: Psalm 22:23-31

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy 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 thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

OFFERTORY

(Offer to God and then use this time for prayer. A QR code at the end of the bulletin is available for online giving).

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE “We Give You But Your Own” #785 *New Century Hymnal*

**We give you but your own, whate’er the gift may be;
All that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SENDING

With God’s blessing, we are sent forth to follow Christ in the world.

* COMMISSIONING HYMN “O God, Our Help in Ages Past” #25 *New Century Hymnal*

(For full music, the New Century Hymnal is located in each pew rack)

**O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast and our eternal home.**

**Under the shadow of your throne your saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is your arm alone, and our defense is sure.**

**Before the hills in order stood or earth received its frame,
From everlasting you are God, to endless years the same.**

**A thousand ages in your sight are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.**

**Time, like an ever-rolling stream, soon bears us all away;
We fly forgotten, as a dream fades at the opening day.**

**O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Still be our God while troubles last, and our eternal home!**

*COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

*Thanks to God, we at Hope United Church of Christ have good news to share.
And we should feel compelled to share it, because there are people in St. Louis
who are looking for a progressive and loving faith community.
When we share Hope, we make it easier for them to find us!*

Worship Endnotes

(1) *The Seed of Joy*: © 2023 Barn Geese Worship. Used by permission

(2) Adapted from www.faithandworship.com

Music reprinted by permission OneLicense A-722326

February 25, 2024 Worship Leaders

Pastor: Sarah Fredriksen McCann

Organist: Jim Threlkeld

Liturgist: Sue Rainer

Ushers: Representatives from Finance and Insurance Ministry

YouTube: Andy Karcher

Tech team: Jim Richmann, Jack Jennings, Ron Geisel,

Kristine Wentzien, Kathleen Mees

Donate from Your
Smartphone



*Thanks for your contribution to
the ministries of Hope UCC!*

***Hope United Church of Christ Statement
of Welcome and Mission***

No matter where you are on life's journey, you are invited to enter the big red doors of Hope United Church of Christ. We are an open and affirming congregation. We believe that every person is a child of God and all are welcome, regardless of race, economic background, marital status, gender, gender identity(ies) / expression(s), sexual orientation, age, physical or mental ability, nationality or faith history. It is our mission, inspired by God's Holy Spirit, to engage persons in living out the gospel of Jesus Christ. Please come, for all things are ready.

Adopted by Hope UCC Congregation August 29, 2010