



Fifth Sunday of Lent: Vocational Joy

March 17, 2024 10:30 AM

GATHERING

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

RINGING THE BELL

WELCOME AND MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

PRELUDE "Prelude in F" Marcel Dupre

(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 "Praise to the Living God" #8 *New Century Hymnal*
(For full music, the *New Century Hymnal* is located in each pew rack)

**Praise to the living God, the God of love and light,
Whose word brought forth the myriad suns and set the worlds in flight;
Whose infinite design, which we but dimly see,
Pervades all nature, making all a cosmic unity.**

**Praise to the living God, from whom all things derive,
Whose Spirit formed upon this sphere the first faint seeds of life;
Who caused them to evolve, unwitting, toward God's goal,
Till humankind stood on the earth, as living, thinking souls.**

**Praise to the living God, who knows our joy and pain,
Who shares with us our common life, the sacred and profane.
God toils where'er we toil, in home and mart and mill;
And deep within the human heart God leads us forward still.**

**Praise to the living God, around, within, above,
Beyond the grasp of human mind, but whom we know as love.
In these tumultuous days, so full of hope and strife,
May we bear witness to the Way, O Source and Goal of life.**

*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*)

Musical notation for the song "Bless the Lord, My Soul" by Taizé Community. The first line of music is in G major and 4/4 time, with lyrics: "Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name." The second line of music is in G major and 4/4 time, with lyrics: "Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life." The second line includes chord markings: Dm, G, Dm, Bb, C, Dm.

*PASSING THE PEACE

CONVERSATION WITH OUR CHILDREN

CHORAL ANTHEM "Dona Nobis Pacem" Mary Lynn Lightfoot

LISTENING

God speaks to us in the Word proclaimed.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION


SCRIPTURE READING Jeremiah 31:31-34 Pew Bible p.642

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



SERMON

SILENT RELECTION



HYMN OF REFLECTION "O God, Who Gives Us Life" #53 *Glory to God Hymnal*





1 O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,
2 O God, who calls your people out to venture and to dare,
3 O God of cov-e - nant and law, re - vealed in cloud and flame,



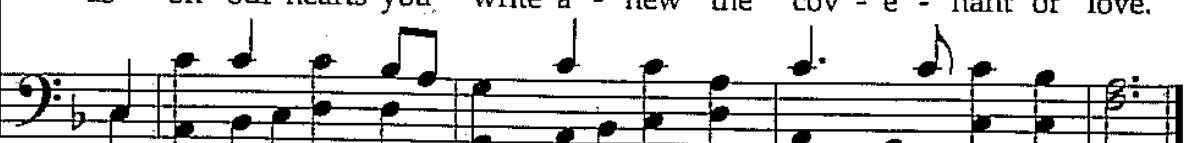
who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:
to plumb the bleak a - byss of doubt and find you e - ven there:
your might - y deeds e - voke our awe; we dare not speak your name.



de - liv - er us from fears that kill the life we have from you.
when we de-spair in wan - der-ing through wastes of emp - ty lies,
Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your peo - ple prove,



Help us to know your Spir - it still is mak - ing all things new.
re - fresh us with the liv - ing spring of hope that nev - er dies.
as on our hearts you write a - new the cov - e - nant of love.



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)

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: Psalm 51:1-12

THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERTORY "Christ, the Life of All the Living" Flor Peeters
(A QR code at the end of the bulletin is available for online giving).

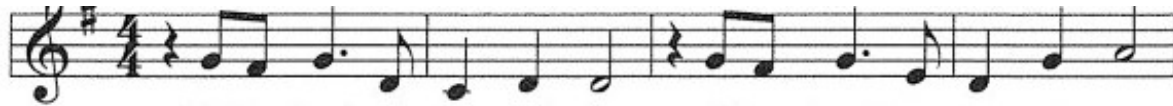
*RESPONSE OF PRAISE "We Give You But Your Own" #785 *New Century Hymnal*
We give you but your own, whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

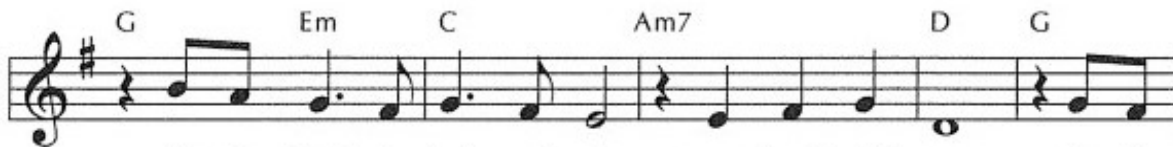
SENDING

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

* COMMISSIONING HYMN "I, the Lord of Sea and Sky" #69 *Glory to God Hymnal*



1 I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
 2 I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
 3 I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I, who
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way. I will
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Fin - est



made the stars of night, I will make their dark - ness bright.
 break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
 bread I will pro - vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call - ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

*COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Prelude in D Minor"

J. S. Bach

*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

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March 17, 2024 Worship Leaders

Pastor: Sarah Fredriksen McCann

Organist: Jim Threlkeld

Liturgist: Tiffany Beardslee

Ushers: Representatives from the Environmental Justice Team

YouTube: Andy Karcher

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

Kristine Wentzien, Kathleen Mees

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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