



**Third Sunday of Easter**  
April 14, 2024 10:30 a.m.

## **GATHERING**

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

RINGING THE BELL

WELCOME AND MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

PRELUDE "Prelude in G" Felix Mendelssohn

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (2)

Peace be with you.

**And also with you.**

Come and see the love God has given to us.

**Come and see what it means to be children of God.**

Come with this hope, that Christ's presence is real.

**With joy, we come to see the Lord.**

\*GATHERING HYMN: "Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing" #303 *New Century Hymnal vv.1-3*  
(For full music, the *New Century Hymnal* is located in each pew rack)

**Rejoice, give thanks and sing; your Sovereign God adore!**

**For Christ has robbed death's sting and triumphs evermore.**

**Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.**

**Our Savior Jesus reigns, the God of truth and love;**

**The Lamb who purged our stains is crowned with power above.**

**Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.**

**Christ Jesus cannot fail to rule both earth and heaven;**

**The keys of death and hell are to the Savior given.**

**Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.**

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (3)**

Wondrous God, we confess that at times our doubts and fears override our hope and faith.

**Forgive us when we lose sight of the joy of your love.**

Lift up our spirits, Lord, and help us to remember the promise of new life here and now, not just the hope of resurrection for the future.

**Forgive us, restore us and renew us. In the name of our risen Savior, Jesus the Christ, we pray. (silent confession)**

**\*WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

The tomb is empty. The stone is rolled away. We are forgiven, loved and restored, receiving the gift and promise of new life and resurrection now.

**Thanks be to God!**

**\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE “Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing” v.4**

**Rejoice in glorious hope, for Christ the Judge shall come,**

**And take the faithful up to their eternal home.**

**We soon shall hear a heavenly voice above the trumpet’s sound, “Rejoice!”**

**\*PASSING THE PEACE**

CONVERSATION WITH OUR CHILDREN

CHORAL ANTHEM     "For the Beauty of the Earth"     Mark Patterson

**LISTENING**

*God speaks to us in the Word proclaimed.*

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING     Luke 24:36b-48

Pew Bible p.861

A Word of God that is still speaking,

**Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

SILENT MEDITATION

HYMN OF REFLECTION “Won’t You Let Me Be Your Servant?” #539 *New Century Hymnal*  
(For full music, the *New Century Hymnal* is located in each pew rack)

**Won’t you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?  
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.**

**We are pilgrims on a journey, we are travelers on the road;  
We are here to help each other go the mile and bear the load.**

**I will hold the Christ-light for you in the shadow of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.**

**I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh, I’ll laugh with you.  
I will share your joy and sorrow till we’ve seen this journey through.**

**When we sing to God in heaven we shall find such harmony,  
Born of all we’ve known together of Christ’s love and agony.**

**Won’t you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?  
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.**

### **RESPONDING**

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

NAMING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.**

MISSION MOMENT: Lydia’s House

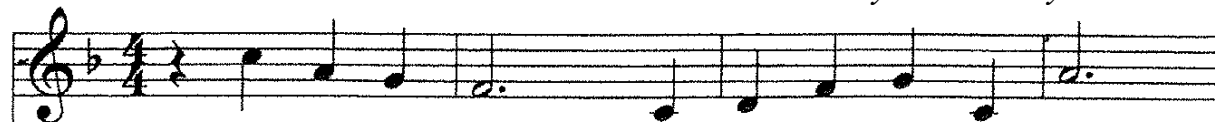
OFFERTORY                    "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"                    John A. Behnke  
(A QR code at the end of the bulletin is available for online giving.)

\* RESPONSE OF PRAISE (tune: “Lasst Uns Erfreuen” *The Hymnal* #15)

**Praise God, the Giver and the Gift,  
Hearts, minds and voices now uplift, Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise, praise the breath of glad surprise, Freeing, uplifting, opening eyes.  
Three-In-Oneness, Love Communing, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*COMMISSIONING HYMN: "Go to the Word" #295 *Glory To God Hymnal*



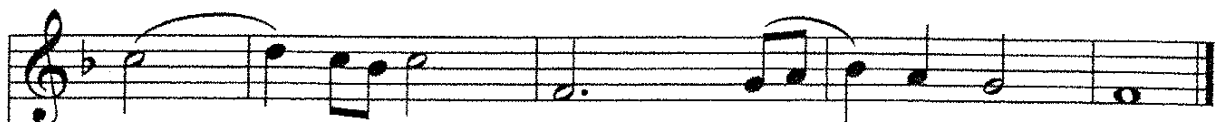
1 Go to the world! Go in - to all the earth.  
2 Go to the world! Go in - to ev - ery place.  
3 Go to the world! Go strug - gle, bless, and pray;  
4 Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,



Go preach the cross where Christ re - news life's worth,  
Go live the word of God's re - deem - ing grace.  
the nights of tears give way to joy - ous day.  
for I am with you till the age shall end,



bap - tiz - ing as the sign of our re - birth.  
Go seek God's pres - ence in each time and space.  
As ser - vant church, you fol - low Christ's own way.  
when all the hosts of glo - ry cry "A - men!"



Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

\*COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Postlude on the tune "St. Anne" Gordon Young

**SENDING**

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

*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!*

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Worship Endnotes

- (1) Adapted from Feasting on the Word: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 1; Kimberly Bracken Long, editor.
- (2) Adapted from [www.re-worship.blogspot.com](http://www.re-worship.blogspot.com)
- (3) Adapted from [www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning](http://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning)

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***Worship Leaders April 14, 2024***

Pastor: Sarah McCann

Organist: Jim Threlkeld

Liturgist: Tiffany Beardslee

Ushers: Members of the Special Events Ministry Team

YouTube: Andy Karcher

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

Kristine Wentzien, Kathleen Mees

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