

Second Sunday after Epiphany
January 18, 2025
10:30 a.m.

GATHERING

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

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

PRELUDE "Aria" Paul Manz

() Indicates that all are invited to stand*

**CALL TO WORSHIP based on Psalm 40*

One: Sing a new song, a song of thanks and praise!

All: God has done wondrous deeds, and is great beyond compare!

One: We gather here in this place to give thanks to our gracious God!

**GATHERING HYMN: "Rejoice, You Pure in Heart" #55 New Century Hymnal*

(For full music, the New Century Hymnal is located in each pew rack) vv.1-4

Rejoice, you pure in heart; lift praises to the sky;

Your festal banner wave with joy, the cross of Christ raise high!

Refrain: Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing!

Bright youth and seasoned age, strong souls and spirits meek,

Raise high your free, exulting song, God's wondrous praises speak. Refrain

With voice as full and strong as ocean's surging praise,

Send forth the hymns the saints have loved, the psalms of ancient days. Refrain

Yes, on through life's long path, still chanting as you go,

From youth to age, by night and day, in gladness and in woe: Refrain

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (1)

O Holy One, who wondrously calls us into being, calling us also into ways and being for life,
we admit before you and to those around us, that at times it all seems too hard;
when we see little fruit for our labors or receive ingratitude for honest endeavors.

Forgive us, not just for a lack of belief in you but a lack of belief in who we are.

Forgive us for all thoughts that would have us hide away and not hear the calls for creative love
and justice that you place ever before us. (*silent confession*)

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the Good News! God is faithful and ever-present.

Through the gift of Jesus Christ, God offers forgiveness, grace, and endless love.

Thanks be to God!

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE “Rejoice, You Pure in Heart” v.5

Praise God who rules all worlds, the risen Christ adore,

Praise God the Spirit, Holy fire, one God for evermore!

Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing!

*PASSING THE PEACE

CONVERSATION WITH OUR CHILDREN

CHORAL ANTHEM

LISTENING

God speaks to us in the Word proclaimed.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Pew Bible p.926

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

SERMON

SILENT REFLECTION

HYMN OF REFLECTION: “God Beyond Knowledge” (*Iona Community*)
(tune: Be Now My Vision #451 *New Century Hymnal*)

**God beyond knowledge, yet close to us here,
our touchstone, our lodestar in faith and in fear;
your presence we know in the dark before dawn
as courage is kindled and hope is reborn.**

**God without limits, yet sharing our flesh,
you speak for the silenced, release the oppressed
and call us to follow, in all things to prove
the tools of your spirit, the signs of your love.**

**Lord, to your purpose our living we pledge:
to go beyond comfort and stand at life’s edge,
to love and to live without safety, and so
to shape and inhabit your Kingdom of hope.**

RESPONDING

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

AFFIRMATION OF MINISTRY: INSTALLATION OF NEW COUNCIL AND MINISTRY TEAM MEMBERS

INVITATION

Affirmation of ministry is the act whereby a local church of the United Church of Christ recognizes the diverse gifts of its members and celebrates the particular ministry of each person in the life of the church.

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them.

There are different ways of serving, but the same God is served.

There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to each of us for our particular service.

The Spirit’s presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all.

Christ is like a single body, which has many parts.

It is still one body even though it is made up of different parts.

If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it;

if one part is praised, all the other parts share its happiness.

All of us are Christ’s body, and each one is a part of it!

COVENANT QUESTIONS

CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT

Members of this household of faith, you have heard the promises of our siblings in Christ who have answered God's call to service. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with them.

We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.

PRAYER AND DISMISSAL

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.

OFFERTORY "Meditation in E Minor" George Oldroyd
(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: "Will You Come and Follow Me" #726

Glory to God Hymnal



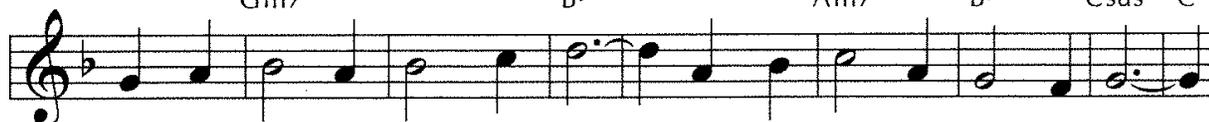
1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
 2 "Will you leave your-self be-hind if I but call your name?
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?
 4 "Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
 5 Lord, your sum-mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.

(D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (G) (D)
 F C7 Dm Gm7 B^b F



Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?
 Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?
 Will you set the pris-oners free and nev - er be the same?
 Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?
 Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.

(Em7) (G) (F#m7) (G) (Asus)(A)
 Gm7 B^b Am7 B^b Csus C



Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at-tract or scare?
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,
 Will you use the faith you've found to re-shape the world a - round,
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot-steps show.

(D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (G) (D)
 F C7 Dm Gm7 B^b F



will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"
 Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?"
 and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?"
 through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"
 Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

*COMMISSIONING AND BENEDECTION

POSTLUDE

"Intermezzo in C"

Hermann Schroeder

Worship Endnotes

1.adapted from www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning

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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 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

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contribution to the
ministries of Hope
UCC!*