



Third Sunday after Epiphany
January 25, 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 "My God, How Wonderful Thou Art" Stephen Gabrielsen

*CALL TO WORSHIP⁽¹⁾

One: To those who sit in darkness, light has dawned.

All: To those who dwell in gloom and despair, God's glorious presence has appeared.

One: God is indeed our light and our salvation.

All: We will follow, unafraid, where God and Jesus lead us.

One: Let us worship our God of light and promise!

*GATHERING HYMN: "Arise, Your Light Has Come" #164 *New Century Hymnal*
(For full music, the *New Century Hymnal* is located in each pew rack)

Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;

Show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today!

Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door;

Proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born,

Bind up the broken-hearted ones and comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!

Rise up like eagles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(1)*

God of light, sometimes we prefer to live in darkness,
embracing the safety and anonymity of the shadows;

sometimes we delight in our divisions, believing we are better than others;

sometimes the yoke of our calling feels too heavy, and we seek to slip out from under the bar
across our shoulders.

Forgive our fear. Forgive our aversion to the light.

Forgive our unresponsiveness to your call.

**Help us know deep in our souls that you are our light and our salvation, our joy and our
wonder, our very life.** *(silent confession)*

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Hear the good news! We have nothing to fear. Know that our God of light
wraps us in comforting arms, and we dwell in the grace of God, now and forevermore.

Thanks be to God!

***RESPONSE OF PRAISE #236** New Century Hymnal *(repeat once)*

Halle, halle, hallelujah. Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Halle, halle, hallelujah. Hallelujah, hallelujah!

***PASSING THE PEACE**

CONVERSATION WITH OUR CHILDREN

CHORAL ANTHEM "As the Deer" Words & Music by Martin Nystrom;
Arr. Douglas E. Wagner

LISTENING

God speaks to us in the Word proclaimed.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 4:12-23

Pew Bible p.785

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

SERMON

SILENT REFLECTION

HYMN OF REFLECTION: "You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore" #173

New Century Hymnal

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

**You have come down to the lakeshore seeking neither the wise nor the wealthy,
But only asking for me to follow.**

***Refrain:* O Jesus, you have looked into my eyes;
kindly smiling, you've called out my name.**

On the sand I have abandoned my small boat; now with you I will seek other seas.

**You know full well my possessions, neither treasure nor weapons for conquest,
Just these my fishnets and will for working. *Refrain***

**You need my hands, my exhaustion, working love for the rest of the weary—
A love that's willing to go on loving. *Refrain***

**You who have fished other waters; you, the longing of souls that are yearning:
As loving Friend, you have come to call me. *Refrain***

RESPONDING

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

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 "Beautiful Saviour" 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: “You Walk Along Our Shoreline” #504 *New Century Hymnal*
(For full music, the *New Century Hymnal* is located in each pew rack)

**You walk along our shoreline where land meets unknown sea.
We hear your voice of power, “Now come and follow me.
And if you still will follow through storm and wave and shoal,
Then I will make you fishers, but of the human soul.”**

**You call us, Christ, to gather the people of the earth.
We cannot fish for only those lives we think have worth.
We spread your net of gospel across the water’s face,
Our boat a common shelter for all found by your grace.**

**We cast our net, O Jesus; we seek your promised reign;
We work for love and justice; we learn to hope through pain.
You call on us to gather God’s daughters and God’s sons,
To let your judgment heal us so that all may be one.**

*COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Psalm 19" Benedetto Marcello

Worship Endnotes

1.adapted from www.ministrymatters.com

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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

