



Fifth Sunday After Epiphany
February 4, 2024 10:30 AM

GATHERING

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

RINGING THE BELL

WELCOME AND MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

PRELUDE Voluntary in A" William Selby

(Indicates that all are invited to stand*

***CALL TO WORSHIP (3)**

One: God comes into a world filled with uncertainties and darkness.

All: God embraces the wounded and broken.

One: God knocks down the walls of division and strife.

All: God is the candle shining in the darkness of our days.

One: God is the light of our lives.

All: God is the one who makes all things new.

One: Praise be to God, now and forevermore!

*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN “Praise to the Living God” #8 *New Century Hymnal* vv.1-3
(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.**

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (3)

How can we look at this world and not sing of your praises, O God? Yet we have a tendency to take all that you do for us for granted.

We often treat your world with indifference, using its resources carelessly and with little regard to the future.

We turn our backs on people in need, the weak and downtrodden go unnoticed in our midst.
It is easier to believe that someone else will care for those in need.

Forgive us, God of all. Make us fully aware of all our blessings and our responsibilities.
Give us again a spirit of joy in serving you. Help us be agents of peace and hope to others. *(silent confession)*

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Jesus has come to heal our spirits and our souls. Rejoice and be glad! For God’s love is poured out to you this day and always.

Thanks be to God!

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE “Praise to the Living God” v.4

**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.**

*PASSING THE PEACE

CONVERSATION WITH OUR CHILDREN

CHORAL ANTHEM "How Can I Keep from Singing?" Quaker Hymn;
Glenda E. Franklin

LISTENING

God speaks to us in the Word proclaimed.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 1:29-39 Pew Bible p.813

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

SERMON

SILENT RELECTION

HYMN OF REFLECTION "There Is a Balm in Gilead" #553 *New Century Hymnal*
(For full music, the *New Century Hymnal* is located in each pew rack)

**Refrain: There is a balm in Gilead, to make the wounded whole,
There is a balm in Gilead, to heal the sin-sick soul.**

**Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain,
But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again. *Refrain***

**Don't ever feel discouraged, for Jesus is your friend,
Who, if you ask for knowledge, will never fail to lend. *Refrain.***

**If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus, who died to save us all. *Refrain***

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.

OFFERTORY "Crusaders' Hymn" Silesian Folk Melody; Arr. Frederick Swann
(Offer to God and then use this time for prayer. A QR code at the end of the bulletin is available for online giving).

*DOXOLOGY#780 *New Century Hymnal*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

May God be with you.

And also with you.

People of God, open your hearts.

We open our hearts to God and to each other.

Let us give thanks to the Living God.

With joy and praise, we offer our thanks to the One who offers abundant life.

In the morning, Awakening God....

...With those so weary that cannot take another step, with those revived by your grace and hope, we lift our praises to you now and forever:

Holy, holy, holy are you, God of all knowledge.

All creation sings glad praises to you. Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who came for our sake. Hosanna in the highest!

Holy are you, Glorious God...

....As we search for him in our time, as we would proclaim the gospel, may we find that mystery we call faith:

Christ died, not boasting in himself;

Christ was raised, the gospel lived out in him;

Christ will come to take us by the hand, giving us strength.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

(All are welcome to share in the Sacrament of Communion! Elements will be served by ushers, and you are invited to hold the elements until we commune together. Wine trays contain white grape juice and red wine. A tray of gluten-free bread is available from usher in center aisle.)

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING** (*unison*)

We thank you, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

SENDING

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

*** COMMISSIONING HYMN** "As We Gather at Your Table" #332

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

**As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word,
Help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;
Teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's victory known.**

**Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life;
Send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave;
May we still behold your image in the world you died to save.**

**Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast
Where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy bind us nor will pride our peace destroy,
As we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.**

***COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE "Psalm 19" Benedetto Marcello

*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) Adapted from Feasting on the Word: Liturgies for Year B

(2) Adapted from www.ministrymatters.com

(3) Adapted from www.re-worship.blogspot.com

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February 4, 2024 Worship Leaders

Pastor: Sarah Fredriksen McCann

Organist: Jim Threlkeld

Liturgist: Tiffany Beardslee

Ushers: Representatives from Finance and Insurance Ministry

YouTube: Andy Karcher

Tech team: Jim Richmann, Jack Jennings, Ron Geisel,
Kristine Wentzien, Kathleen Mees

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the ministries of Hope UCC!*