




HOPE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Second Sunday after Pentecost
Windows of Hope Series
June 2, 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 "Lord of All Hopefulness" Clay Christiansen

() Indicates that all are invited to stand*

***CALL TO WORSHIP (1)**

One: God created the world out of a formless void.

All: Let us remember what our God has done!

One: God made every animal and plant, bird and fish.

All: Let us remember what our God has done!

One: God created people in the image of God.

All: Let us remember what our God has done with praise and thanksgiving!

GATHERING HYMN Morning Has Broken #664 *Glory to God Hymnal vv.1-2
Morning has broken like the first morning; blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing, fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven, like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION (1)**

Holy and eternal God, you created us in your image and gave us special responsibilities toward creation and our fellow human beings.

You set us as caretakers for the earth and all its plants and animals.

You anointed us as disciples and told us to make fellow disciples the world over.

In many ways, we have failed to live as steadfast caretakers and bold disciples.

Forgive us, we pray, and renew our minds and hearts for the sake of all your beloved children and all your wondrous creation. *(silent confession)*

***WORDS OF ASSURANCE (2)**

In this place we find God's word, God's way, God's love, God's forgiveness.

What more do we need to sustain us as we continue as pilgrims along the Way?

Thanks be to God!

***RESPONSE OF PRAISE "Morning Has Broken" v.3**

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning, born of the one light Eden saw play!

Praise with elation; praise every morning, God's recreation of the new day!

***PASSING THE PEACE**

CONVERSATION WITH OUR CHILDREN

LISTENING

God speaks to us in the Word proclaimed.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Genesis 1 *(poem from www.engageworship.org)*

Rewind, back to the beginning, no birds tweeting, no earth spinning.

Formless, nothing, 'til the day God's Word and Spirit combined to say:

"Light!" And there was light. It was a good light, it was from God.

Somehow there was water, but it had no limits, so God had to set some boundaries within it.

Once evening and morning had sailed on by God divided heaven and earth with the cry:

"Sky!" And there was sky. It was a good sky, it was from God.

Then God reached out a creative hand to pull back the sea, revealing land.

God wanted to see diverse vegetation, food and color for every generation:

“Plants!” And there were plants. They were good plants, they were from God.

Now God wanted rhythms, days and nights, seasons and patterns, shadows and lights.

So God set the stars and the moon in place and God called with joy and delight on his face:

“Sun!” And there was a Sun. It was a good Sun, it was from God.

God looked at the waters and looked at the sky. God imagined sea creatures and things that fly,

all shades of color, both huge and small, and each appeared as he smiled and called:

“Fish and birds!” And there were fish and birds. They were good fish and good birds, they were from God.

As God turned to land, God saw in God’s mind creatures and critters of every kind, tame and friendly, wild and wondrous, at God’s voice there appeared in abundance:

“Animals!” And there were animals. They were good animals, they were from God.

God the Trinity said “we need people like us, male and female, united in love, reflecting our nature, caring for earth,” so with one word God brought to birth:

“Humans!” And there were humans. They were good humans, they were from God.

All God made, it was very, very good. There were trees for shelter and plants for food.

The gift of creation with enough to share, God blessed that day, and with a whisper declared:

“Rest.” And there was rest. It was a very good rest, it was from God.

A Word of God that is still speaking,

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

SILENT MEDITATION

HYMN OF REFLECTION “All Things Bright and Beautiful” #31 *New Century Hymnal*
(For full music, the *New Century Hymnal* is located in each pew rack)

**Refrain: All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful, our dear God made them all.**

**Each purple flower that opens, each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors and made their tiny wings. Refrain**

**The purple-headed mountain, the river running by,
The sunset, and the morning that brightens up the sky. Refrain**

**The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden, God made them everyone. Refrain**

RESPONDING

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

NAMING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

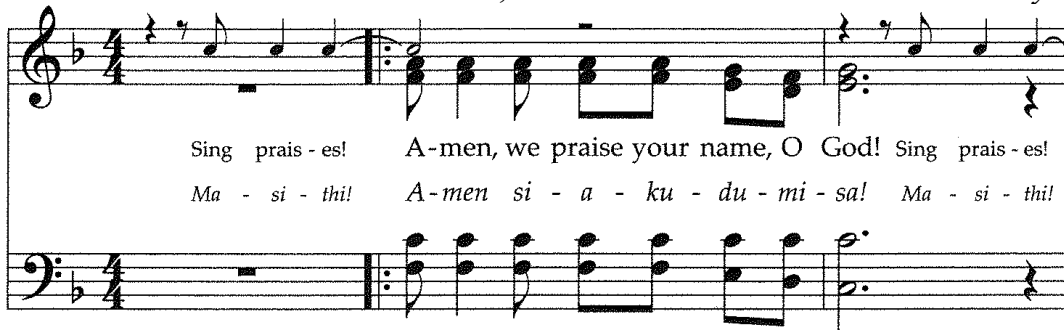
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

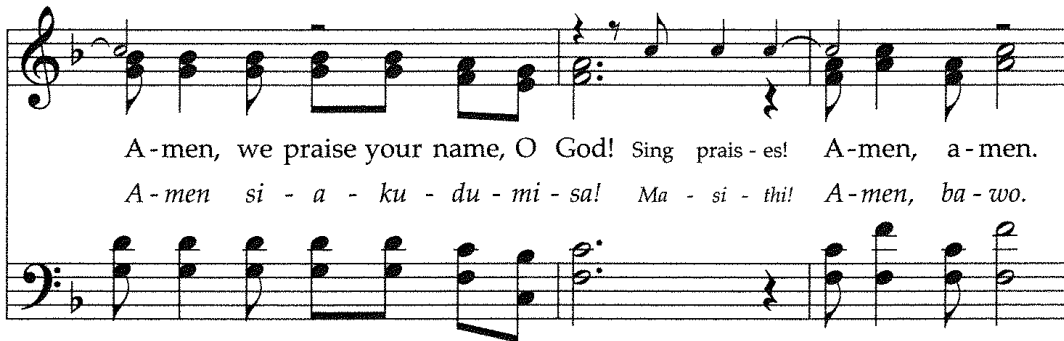
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

OFFERTORY "Flute Meditation" Thomas Thorley
(A QR code at the end of the bulletin is available for online giving.)

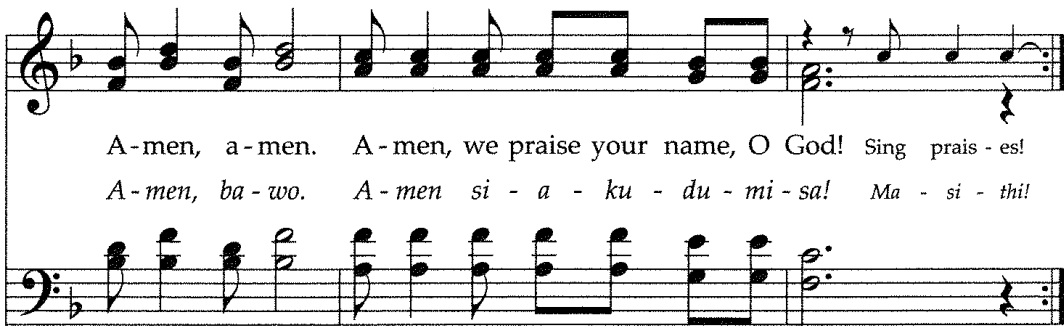
* RESPONSE OF PRAISE "Amen, We Praise Your Name" #598 *Glory to God Hymnal*



Sing prais - es! A-men, we praise your name, O God! Sing prais - es!
Ma - si - thi! A-men si - a - ku - du - mi - sa! Ma - si - thi!



A-men, we praise your name, O God! Sing prais - es! A-men, a - men.
A - men si - a - ku - du - mi - sa! Ma - si - thi! A - men, ba - wo.



A-men, a - men. A - men, we praise your name, O God! Sing prais - es!
A - men, ba - wo. A - men si - a - ku - du - mi - sa! Ma - si - thi!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION

COMMUNION PRAYER

God be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is truly right to thank you, God of all people, for all the gifts of creation and for the gift of life itself. We thank you for making us in your own image, for forgiving us when we act as though you have no claim on us, and for keeping us in your steadfast care. We rejoice in Jesus Christ, the only one begotten by you, who was born of your servant Mary and shared the joys and sorrows of human life. Gifted by the presence of your Holy Spirit, we offer ourselves to you as we unite our voices with each other and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION AND 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 give you thanks, O God, in each of our voices of praise. From the north and east, from the south and west, we call out to you in gratitude for the many ways you encounter us and the many places you call us on our pilgrimage of faith. Send us forth renewed and re-created, that we may be the servant church of the servant Christ, in whose name we rejoice to pray. Amen.

*COMMISSIONING HYMN: “For the Beauty of the Earth” #28 *New Century Hymnal*
(For full music, the New Century Hymnal is located in each pew rack)

For the beauty of the earth, for the splendor of the skies,

For the love which from our birth over and around us lies,

***Refrain:* God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

For the wonder of each hour, of the day and of the night,

Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light. *Refrain*

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,

Friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild. *Refrain*

For the good that love inspires, for a world where none exclude,

For a faith that never tires, and for every heart renewed. *Refrain*

*COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Chorale Prelude on a "Melody by Melchior Vulpius" Healey Willan

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!

Worship Endnotes

- (1) Adapted from www.ministrymatters.com.
- (2) Adapted from www.re-worship.blogspot.com.

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Worship Leaders June 2, 2024

Pastor: Sarah Fredriksen McCann
Organist: Jim Threlkeld
Liturgist: Tiffany Beardslee
Ushers: Members of Dartball 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!

Congratulations to our 2024 Graduates!

Victoria Beal, South City Catholic Academy (8th grade)
Jack Jennings, Lutheran South High School
Maggie Moss, The Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis (M.S.W.)
Eli Kakouris, Bishop DuBourg High School
Ainsley Lodes, Marvin Ridge High School (Marvin, North Carolina)
Breanna Meyer, Lutheran South High School
Sydney Paglusch, Affton High School
Daniel Richmann, Parkway Central High School
Megan Richmann, University of Missouri
Susan Wentzien, Nerinx Hall High School

Further information about each graduate and their next steps will be in our June newsletter!