



Stewardship Sunday

September 29, 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 "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers" Paul Manz

*CALL TO WORSHIP (1)

One: All that we are is a gift from God.

All: The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,

One: All that we have is a gift from God.

All: The world, and those who live in it;

One: There are no words to describe the wonders of God's creation.

All: For God has founded it on the seas, God established it on the rivers.

One: Rejoice as we join together in praise for God's great gifts!

*GATHERING HYMN “God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending” #565 *New Century Hymnal*
vv.1-3

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

**God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,
Nature’s wonder, Jesus’ wisdom, costly cross, grave’s shattered door:
Gifted by you, we turn to you offering up ourselves in praise;
Thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.**

**Skills and time are ours for serving, that your will on earth be done:
All at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the Church made one,
Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone;
Born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne.**

**Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through powers your grace conferred;
Ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel Word.
Open wise our hands in sharing as we heed Christ’s endless call,
Healing, teaching, and reclaiming, honoring you by loving all.**

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (2)

The world says, “Buy and accumulate things.”

O God, your Word says, “Life is not made up of how much a person has.” *(Luke 12:15)*

The world says, “Wealth is our security.”

O God, your Word says, “I will say about the Lord, ‘God is my place of safety.’” *(Ps. 91:2)*

The world says, “Give so that you may obtain favors and praise from others.”

O God, your Word says, “Lend to them without expecting to get anything back.” *(Luke 6:35)*

The world says, “Gratify yourself in every way.”

**O God, your Word says, “Let Christ’s word live in you like a rich treasure. Do everything
you say or do in the name of the Lord Jesus, always giving thanks to God.” Help us, O
God, to listen less to the world, and more to your gracious Word.** *(Silent confession)*

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

No matter what we have done or what we have left undone, God still reaches out to forgive and
restore us. Rejoice in forgiveness through Christ and live in God’s love!

Thanks be to God!

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE “God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending” v.4

**Lend your joy to all our giving, let it light our pilgrim way;
From the night of anxious keeping, loose us into generous day.
Then when years on earth are over, and we’ve lived our human span,
God, fulfill beyond our dreaming, all our stewardship began.**

*PASSING THE PEACE

CONVERSATION WITH OUR CHILDREN

CHORAL ANTHEM

LISTENING

God speaks to us in the Word proclaimed.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 20:1-16

Pew Bible p.801

A Word of God that is still speaking,

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Sarah Fredriksen McCann

SILENT REFLECTION

RESPONDING

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

LITANY OF GIVING (3)

Creator of all, the earth is yours, the world and all who live in it.

You have entrusted us with gifts—time, talent, treasure, and our whole selves--and asked us to use them to build your kingdom. With thanks and praise we respond to your call.

We bring these gifts you have given, returning your generosity with gratitude.

We offer ourselves, our lives, our hopes and fears, our labors and our love. We commit ourselves to work for your world, to love and serve wherever you call.

We ask your blessing on this, your church, as we seek to follow you with heart, mind, and soul.

Bless also these gifts, our investment in your future, that they may multiply in faith, hope, and love. Amen!

ACT OF SHARING

SONG: "I, the Lord of Sea and Sky" #69 *Glory to God Hymnal*

(During the music please come forward and place your pledge forms in the basket and then return to your seat. You may also place your forms in the offering plate or mail to church office.)



1 I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
 2 I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
 3 I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I, who
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way. I will
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Fin - est



made the stars of night, I will make their dark - ness bright.
 break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
 bread I will pro - vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call - ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

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 "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart" Arr. Don Hustad
(Offer to God and then use this time for prayer. A QR code at the end of the bulletin is available for online giving.)

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE (tune: "Lasst Uns Erfreuen")

**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 "For the Fruit of All Creation" #425 *New Century Hymnal*
(For full music, the New Century Hymnal is located in each pew rack)

**For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
For God's gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,
Future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.**

**In the just rewards of labor, God's will is done.
In the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done.
In our worldwide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,
In the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.**

**For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us,
Most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.**

*COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Psalm 19"

Benedetto Marcello

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 a litany by Christian Smith, www.cpmc.org
- (2) Adapted from "Preparation for Giving" by Bryan Jeffery Leech, The Worshiping Church, © 1990
- (3) Adapted from a litany by the Rev. Teri Peterson, Ridgefield Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church, Crystal Lake IL.

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Worship Leaders September 29, 2024

Pastor: Sarah McCann
Organist: Jim Threlkeld
Liturgist: Paul Conner
Ushers: Members of the One Body Ministry Team
YouTube: Andy Karcher
Tech team: Jim Richmann, Ron Geisel,
Kristine Wentzien, Kathleen Mees

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contribution to the
ministries of Hope UCC!*