



**HOPE**  
UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

*"...you are welcome here."*

Hope United Church of Christ | 6130 Old Telegraph Rd. | Alexandria, VA 22310

**A Joint Worship Service  
God on the Move:  
Faith and Technology**

**September 27, 2020**

**No matter who you are or where you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here!**

**Worship Participants**

Greeters: Harry Shepler & Chloe Jackson

Liturgist: Sabine Cox

Scripture Reader: Rae Gunawardena

Zoom Technical Support: Shane Rivers (Hope) & Patrick Jackson (UCCSV)

**Hope UCC Staff**

Pastor: Rev. Amber Henry Neuroth

Practice in Ministry Fellow: Lynaya Morris-Lischin

Ministry Coordinator & Choir Director: Naomi Velluttini

Musician: Bill Robinson

Church Administrator: Ellen Ebeling

**UCC Seneca Valley Staff**

Pastor: Rev. Holly R. Jackson

Director of Music Ministry: Stefan Petrov

Office Manager: Nita Stone

**Instructions for Zoom Worship:**

As you sit down to worship you are invited to bring a candle with you (flame or electric). Keep your microphone on mute during worship unless told otherwise. Words in bold are meant to be said aloud at home with the Pastor or Liturgist who will say them on the Zoom call. Sing along at home to the sung responses and hymns. Use the chat box for the passing of the peace, prayer requests or other worship responses. If you are having technical issues please chat message Patrick Jackson or Shane Rivers for help. The Zoom room opens at 9:30am and worship begins at 10.

## Prelude

## Welcome & Announcements

**Welcoming the Light into Worship** – Light your candle at home

## Call to Worship

One: We have come together from different churches and different states.

**All: We are gathered as one body to worship.**

One: We have come together using many different technologies.

**All: We are on computers and phones and tablets and television screens, yet we are one in this virtual space.**

One: We are in different emotional spaces, some of us struggling and some of us celebrating and some of us doing both at the same time.

**All: We come as we are and bring all that we have to worship.**

One: We have come together at this specific time to answer God's call.

**All: We are ready to worship and serve in such a time as this.**

One: Let us worship God together. Amen.

## Opening Prayer

One: Holy God, you have been a steady presence throughout time, from the dawn of creation to this pandemic season. You have called each generation to face the challenges of their time. You have given us different gifts and technologies to help us work for the causes of love and justice. We pray that you would be with us now, in this important time and in this virtual space. Draw us together as one community, one church, so that we might be called and blessed today. Comfort us, inspire us, and renew us, so that we are ready to serve. Amen.

**Opening Hymn**      "Called as Partners in Christ's Service"      #495 v. 1, 3, 4

*Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace.  
We respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace.  
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend.  
Equal partners in our caring, to fulfill God's chosen end.*

*Thus new patterns for Christ's mission, in a small or global sense,  
Help us bear each other's burdens, breaking down each wall or fence.  
Words of comfort, words of vision, words of challenge said with care.  
Bring new power and strength for action, make us colleagues free and fair.*

***So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life  
That surround each person's sorrow with a calm that conquers strife.  
Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase,  
Messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.***

### **Invitation to Confession**

One: The ways in which we gather as the church may be changing, but the ways in which we seek and find forgiveness and grace are still the same. We quiet our hearts. We admit to God the shame and guilt we carry, both for the things we have done that we regret and the things we failed to do that haunt us, as individuals and as a society. This is how we release our burdens and find freedom. *(A chime calls us to a moment of silence.)*

### **Prayer of Confession**

**All: Holy One, we confess that we say we await your call for a time such as this, but we quickly turn away when we hear it. We're not sure how to navigate through this time. We admit that as happy as we are to see each other's faces, sometimes we despair at yet another Zoom meeting. We acknowledge that we have used technology in ways that hinder and hurt ourselves and others. We know you are on the move and calling us to move with you, but we struggle to know how to follow you faithfully. You offer us new possibilities and yet we get stuck trying to do things in familiar ways. Give us strength, renewed vision, and hope for the future so that we can answer you call and transform the world. Amen.**

### **Words of Assurance**

One: God is on the move, but God has promised to never leave us behind. Living into a new creation requires practice, learning, and the knowledge that we will be forgiven again and again as we grow into everything God knows we can be. Take heart. You are God's beloved now and in all the days to come!

### **Passing of the Peace**

(We will drop out of the powerpoint and unmute you. You are encouraged to wave, say Christ's peace aloud, and/or write your offering of peace to all in the chat.)

### **Children's Moment**

### **Prayer of Illumination**

One: Amazing God, let us hear these ancient stories and see ourselves in them. Let us hear you speaking to us and challenging us to be on the move with you. Let the Spirit swirl around us as we consider your word. Amen.

**Scripture** Esther 3 & Esther 8:8-14

**Sermon** Rev. Amber Neuroth & Rev. Holly R. Jackson

**Musical Response**

**Community Life and Concerns**

(We will drop out of the Powerpoint here. Please feel free to write your prayer concerns in the chat box.)

God is good, **all the time.**

All the time, **God is good!**

**Moment of Silence**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Lord's Prayer** Sung by the Hope UCC Choir

**Offertory Invitation**

One: The move to a virtual platform for all our churches has meant that we have had to learn how to give in new ways. But the intention behind our giving, however it happens, is the same. We give because God first gave to us. We give out of our abundance. We give because we hope our gifts help to transform us, our churches, and our communities.

**Offertory** "Standing in the Need of Prayer" UCCSV Choir

**Offertory Prayer**

**All: Generous God, receive our offerings as a sign of our trust in you – in your goodness, in your provision, in your faithfulness, in your movement forward. Take what we can give of our money, and of ourselves, and make it more than enough in ways that bring ever more love, justice, and hope to this world. Amen.**

**Closing Hymn** "Walk in the Reign" Hope UCC Choir

***Refrain:***

***Close as tomorrow the sun shall appear,  
Freedom is coming, and healing is near.  
And I shall be with you, in laughter and pain,  
To stand in the wind and walk in the reign,  
To walk in the reign.***

***In days to come, the desert shall bloom.  
Rivers will run there, soon, very soon.  
So what shall we fear though death do its worst?  
The word of our God is the last shall be first, the last shall be first.***

***O comfort each other, for pain soon must end.  
A day comes when lion and lamb shall be friends.  
The sightless shall see then, the speechless sing songs.  
The name of our God is "the righter of wrongs, the righter of wrongs."***

***A curtain of fear is being torn down,  
Prisons are open, the lost have been found.  
So go tell the seeker what we've seen and heard:  
The name of our God is the keeper of word, the keeper of word.***

***The streets of Soweto, the docks at Gdansk,  
Tienanmen Square, the slums of the Bronx:  
When we stand together to stand against hell,  
The name of his people is Emmanuel, is Emmanuel.***

**Extinguish The Light**

**Benediction**

**Fellowship Time** - Those who wish to stay and chat with others will be broken into small group breakouts to allow for more sustained conversation.

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