



Community UCC

We're worth our words

Welcoming Progressive Community

Vibrant Messengers of Hope



Champaign, Illinois

Third Sunday of Lent Year A

March 12, 2023

Thoughts Before Worship—

Thoughts Before Worship: *In Hope: A User's Manual*, MaryAnn McKibbon Dana reminds us that Hope Lives in the Body. She points out the distinction between self-care and self-comfort and how both are important. How do you do both? If you had to write one sentence about what Hope is to you, what would you write?

If you have requests to add to the prayer list (a public document) go to community-ucc.org/pray (a Google Form), or scan the QR code found in the bulletin or there are prayer cards on the table at the back of the sanctuary that you may fill out and hand to the usher.

Prelude

Aaron Ames

*Call to Worship

People of Hope, as we gather for worship on the Way, we come to be blessed, to be changed, trusting that God has a word for us. We set this intention:

May we befriend our beautiful bodies, trusting their wisdom, receiving their guidance.

May we feel it all, including the emotions we've been fearful to face, and let the memories come, knowing we are safe and never alone.

May we be repairers, seeing the treasure in what others say cannot be fixed.

May we both care for and comfort our communities and especially ourselves.

And, may we courageously pace ourselves, trusting the process, knowing that the seeds of strength and capacity are growing in those around us just as they are.

Just as we are.

*Invocation

Together, let us pray:

Word made flesh, You made and make bodies, including one for yourself. You found a shelter in the stillness of your own pain, rising from that place with newfound strength. Teach us, God, to sit in ours. You ask us where it hurts, and we need your courage to let our bodies answer. Help us drop deeper. Help us make space. Help us feel. Help us heal. Amen.

*Hymn

My Life Flows on in Endless Song

NCH 476 v 1, 2, 4

Welcome, a Word About Worship, and an Invitation to Check-In

We welcome you to our service this morning. Celebrating the diversity of creation, Community United Church welcomes persons of any age, ability, race, gender identity, sexual orientation or life condition. May the Divine Presence become real to you through this time of worship. We hope you come back!

Note 1: *Our worship services are live streamed. If you prefer not to have the back of your head seen on the live stream worship please do not sit in the first seven pews on the left side (organ/piano) of the sanctuary.*

Note 2: *The congregation responds to the liturgy parts in **BOLD***

*Everyone is invited to stand in body or in spirit.

Creating a Hope Manifesto***Passing of the Peace**

As we share signs of peace with one another, you are invited to either to stay in your pew and offer a wave or peace sign to those around you, or to move from your space and exchange signs of peace with one another. As a church, we recognize that some folks may want to refrain from shaking hands. Respect one another's lead in this as we pass the peace. Peace be with you!

Solo

Mache dich, meine Herze, rein

Xiaoyi Zha

Children's Moment**Call to Prayer**

Later in worship, we will offer up our joys and concerns. Your prayer requests will be offered aloud. Whether you are sitting here in the sanctuary, or worshipping with us remotely, you are invited to add your joys and concerns to the prayer list: go to community-ucc.org/pray (a Google Form), or scan the QR code found here or there are prayer cards on the table at the back of the sanctuary that you may fill out and hand to the usher.

Prelude to Scripture

Whether we take what is written in the Bible as fact, metaphor, myth, or story, let us listen now for the meaning it might hold for us on this day.

Sacred Reading from the Gospels

John 4:5-42

⁵So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. ⁸(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' ¹¹The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?' ¹²Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' ¹³Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' ¹⁵The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.'

¹⁶Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.' ¹⁷The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; ¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!' ¹⁹The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet.' ²⁰Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.' ²¹Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' ²⁵The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.' ²⁶Jesus said to her, 'I am he, the one who is speaking to you.'

²⁷Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, 'What do you want?' or, 'Why are you speaking with her?' ²⁸Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹'Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?' ³⁰They left the city and were on their way to him.

³¹ Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, eat something.' ³² But he said to them, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' ³³ So the disciples said to one another, 'Surely no one has brought him something to eat?' ³⁴ Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. ³⁵ Do you not say, "Four months more, then comes the harvest"? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. ³⁶ The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷ For here the saying holds true, "One sows and another reaps." ³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.'

³⁹ Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me everything I have ever done.' ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. ⁴¹ And many more believed because of his word. ⁴² They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world.'

Postlude to Scripture

Together, let us say:

May the Spirit bless us with wisdom and wonder as we ponder the meaning of these words for our lives.

***Hymn**

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

NCH 472

Message

Silent Meditation

Call to Offering

The words of Hebrews 10 calls us to generosity this season, "Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep God's promise. Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another." Let what we offer encourage one another and be signs of hope for our weary world. And let the people say,

Amen!

Mission Moment

Jeanne Ward

Offertory

Be Not Afraid

Emma Mize

Sharing our Joys and Concerns

Morning Prayer

Prayer Response

Don't Be Afraid

Songbook 10

Commissioning of the Community

***Hymn**

Christ Be Beside Me

Insert

Christ Be Beside Me

702



1 Christ be be - side me; Christ be be - fore me; Christ be be -
 2 Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand, Christ all a -
 3 Christ be in all hearts think - ing a - bout me; Christ be on



hind me, King of my heart. Christ be with - in me; Christ be be -
 round me, shield in the strife. Christ in my sleep - ing, Christ in my
 all tongues tell - ing of me. Christ be the vi - sion in eyes that



low me; Christ be a - bove me, nev - er to part.
 sit - ting, Christ in my ris - ing, Light of my life.
 see me; in ears that hear me Christ ev - er be.

This text adapts part of a traditional Irish prayer associated with St. Patrick (see also no. 6). Such a prayer for protection is known as a *lorica*, from a Latin word for "breastplate" or "armor." It is set to a Gaelic melody that gained wide popularity in the 1970s.

TEXT: James Quinn, SJ, 1969
 MUSIC: Gaelic melody; arr. Dale Grotenhuis, 1985
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BUNESSAN
 5.5.5.4.D

Benediction

Benediction Response

Lovely Needy People
...There is Mercy Enough, There is Love Enough...

CUCC Choir

Postlude

Aaron Ames

Sunday, March 5 Hope Manifesto

- Hope is the belief that you will be okay, even if there is not a good outcome for a particular situation.
- Hope is remembering that it's not really about me-- it's zooming out to the stars and remembering I am only a small part of it all.
- Hope is something I can pass on to other people; I can help them have faith that things can change for the better.
- Hope is moving forward according to what you know is right even if circumstances seem to say it is wrong or if your actions will be ignored or scorned.
- Quoting Anne Cook-- Hope= "onward and upward!"

Acknowledgements

Call to Worship adapted from Hope: A User's manual Study Guide

Solo, "Mache dich, meine Herze, rein," written by J.S. Bach from St. Matthew Passion

Offertory, Be Not Afraid, Words and Music: Bob Dufford, SJ

Benediction Response, Lovely Needy People, Lyrics by Lenora Rand, Music Gary, Hannah Rand

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Serving Today

Ministers: The Community of Community UCC
Preaching & Presiding: Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser
Liturgist: Rocio Arroyave-Jamison
Usher: Tom Ward, Elizabeth Shack

Organist: Aaron Ames **Singers:** Kathy Lee, CUCC Choir
Audio/Video: Marilou Hinrichs, John Osborne, Roger Wade, Sean Walker

Community United Church of Christ Staff

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Open

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Your Ministry Team Leaders

Moderator: Johnalene Radek*

Past Moderator: Erin Ewoldt*

Incoming Moderator: Julie McClure*

Clerk: Jeff Radek*

Pastoral Relations Committee: Cara Finnegan

Personnel Committee: Stephen Kolderup

Community Building: Peg Wade*

- **Care Team:** Marilou Hinrichs

- **Prayer Shawls:** Elena Kasper

- **Meal Train:** Jennifer Robbennolt

- **Drivers Ministry:** (Open)

- **Healing Music Ministry:** Marilou Hinrichs

- **Card Ministry:** Peg Wade

- **Visitor's Ministry:** Marilou Hinrichs

- **Health and Wellness Team:** Chelsey Byers

Gerstenecker

Hospitality Team: Rocio (Ro) Arroyave-Jamison and Dennis Jamison

Children & Family: Brin Schuler* and Alison Anders

Finance: Roger Wade* (treasurer), David Willcox (financial secretary)

Identity: Keri Evans* and Ramona Oswald

Mission: Jeanne Ward* and Kristy Brownfield

Sound & Ethical Practices (SEP): Shane Brownfield* and (Open)

- **Buildings & Grounds:** Tom Ward and Matthew Hart

- **Contracts & Insurance:** Andrew McClure

UCC Campus Ministry Liaison: Ilsa Kantola*

Worship: (Open) and (Open)

- **Sound Coordinator:** Roger Wade

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