



Community UCC

We're worth our words

Welcoming Progressive Community

Vibrant Messengers of Hope



Champaign, Illinois

Ordinary 10, Year B

June 9, 2024

Thoughts before worship: *"I am convinced that courage is the most important of all the virtues. Because without courage, you cannot practice any other virtue consistently. You can be kind for a while; you can be generous for a while; you can be just for a while, or merciful for a while, even loving for a while. But it is only with courage that you can be persistently and insisently kind and generous and fair." — Maya Angelou*

Prelude

Aaron Ames

Call to Worship

In a world in which it seems that the more things change,
the more they stay the same,

even now, God is coaching the birth of something new!

God brings forth a hopeful future, despite evidence to the contrary.

We are part of God's new creation!

We are part of God's creating, too!

God can use our hands and feet and hearts and voices to create new life!

As one body, we worship you, O God, made known to us as Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Invocation

Creative and Creating God, give us the eyes to see, ears to hear, and hearts to understand your Word, as it is found in these words of Scripture. Help us to locate life in stories both familiar and unfamiliar. Grant us insight both to guide and challenge us now, and in the days to come. Amen.

*Hymn

Guide me, O My Great Redeemer

NCH 18

*Guide me, O my great Redeemer, pilgrim through this
barren land; I am weak, but you are mighty;
hold me with your powerful hand. Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more, feed me till I want no more.*

*Open now the crystal fountain, where the healing
waters flow. Let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through. Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
ever be my strength and shield, ever be my strength and shield.*

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: *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.*

*When I reach the River Jordan, bid my anxious
fears subside. Death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on heaven's side. Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever sing to you, I will ever sing to you.*

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

Call to Confession

Our help is in the name of God, who made heaven and earth. God listens. God cares. God responds. Join me, as we pray together, saying:

Prayer of Confession

Persistent God, forgive us when we give up on others too easily. You never give up on us. Forgive us when we judge others instead of trying to learn their stories. You know our stories, and yet love us anyway. Forgive us when we lack the courage to stand up for what is right. Your grace envelopes us, and we are inspired to try again. Help us remember that you long to liberate all of us by your divine mercy and grace. With hope and in silence, we pray... (Time of Silence)

Assurance of Grace

God's love and mercy never ends, but is new every morning. Great is God's faithfulness! Beloved, believe the Good News:

In Christ, we are forgiven and set free!

***Passing of the Peace**

Children's Moment

Call to Prayer

After the sermon, 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 Original Testament

Exodus 1:8-2:10

⁸ Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. ⁹He said to his people, 'Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. ¹⁰Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.' ¹¹Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labour. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. ¹²But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. ¹³The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, ¹⁴and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

¹⁵ The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, ¹⁶'When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live.' ¹⁷But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. ¹⁸So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, 'Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?' ¹⁹The midwives said to Pharaoh, 'Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.' ²⁰So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. ²¹And because the midwives feared God, he gave them fam-

ilies. ²²Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, 'Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live.'

¹Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. ²The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. ³When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. ⁴His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

⁵The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. ⁶When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. 'This must be one of the Hebrews' children,' she said. ⁷Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?' ⁸Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Yes.' So the girl went and called the child's mother. ⁹Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.' So the woman took the child and nursed it. ¹⁰When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, 'because', she said, 'I drew him out of the water.'

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

What a Covenant

NCH 471

*What a cov-e-nant, what a joy di-vine, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.
What a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.*

Refrain:

Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all a-larms; lean-ing, lean-ing, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.

*Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.
Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.*

Refrain:

*What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms?
I have bless-ed peace with my Sav-ior near, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.*

Refrain:

Sermon

Faces of our Faith: Shiphrah & Puah

Silent Meditation

Moment of Witness: a Face of My Faith

Chase Skye

Joys and Concerns

Morning Prayer

Call to Offering

What is God ready to birth in us? Let us give thanks to God, who never gives up on us, with our tithes, gifts, and offerings. You may give online at community-ucc.org by clicking donate, or give in person.

Midwifing, mothering God, with praise and thanks, vigor and sweat, care and hope, we bless these gifts in your love. In Christ Jesus, we pray. Amen.



Offertory

*Hymn

In Egypt under Pharaoh

NCH 574

*In E-gypt un-der Pha-raah the Is-rael-ites were bound,
from plagues and trib-u-la-tions no re-spite could be found.
Praise God who in sur-pris-ing ways gave pas-sage through the waves.
Our Lib-er-a-tor res-cues, our Lib-er-a-tor saves.*

*From Af-ri-ca to gang-planks, a-cross a friend-less sea,
black cap-tives harsh-ly treat-ed all strug-gled to be free.
Praise God who strength-ened ad-vo-cates with power that does and dares.
Our Lib-er-a-tor res-cues, our Lib-er-a-tor cares.*

*Wher-ev-er hurt-ing hu-mans un-just-ly live in pain,
the hun-gry, home-less, hope-less, cry out for growth and gain.
Praise God whose great re-deem-ing love each ser-vant free-ly gives.
Our Lib-er-a-tor res cues, our Lib-er-a-tor lives!*

Commissioning of the Community

*Benediction

*Postlude

Aaron Ames

Please join us in the Parlor for the after party.

Acknowledgements

Liturgy for "Faces of our Faith" series from A Sanctified Art from Ann Houlette, Pastor, Bethany UCC, Louisville, KY
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Morning Prayer written by Minister Emeritus, Rev. Connie Bandy

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Serving Today

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Your Ministry Team Leaders

Moderator: Julie McClure*

Past Moderator: Johnalene Radek*

Incoming Moderator: Susan Pawlicki*

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

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

- **Healing Music Ministry:** Marilou Hinrichs

- **Card Ministry:** Peg Wade

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

- **Health and Wellness Team:**

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

Children & Family: Brin Schuler* and Kelly Tull

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

Identity: Keri Evans* and Ramona Oswald

Mission: Jeanne Ward* and Patty Gropp

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

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

-**Contracts & Insurance:** Andrew McClure

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