

Hope United Church Prayer Service – May 3rd, 2020

Welcome and Prayers

Moment of Silence

Music by Rafael

Lighting the Christ Candle

We give thanks for the light of hope—unrelenting and inexplicable.

Our hope in Christ shines on.

We give thanks for the light of peace—strong and unafraid.

The peace of Christ lights our way.

We give thanks for the light of joy—persistent and unpredictable.

The joy of Christ brightens our lives.

We give thanks for the light of love—hot and holy.

The love of Christ comforts and challenges.

Now let us light the Christ candle as we celebrate the life of Jesus.

Thank you, God, for your light in this world through Jesus Christ.

The light shines in the darkness.

And the darkness has not overcome it.

Call to Worship

You meet us where we are on the road of life, loving God.

You listen to us.

You know the losses we have suffered.

And the missed opportunities that we still regret.

We are happy to travel with you, for you are our friend.

In bread and wine we know fellowship and understanding.

And we give joyful thanks.

Sometimes it seems as if you have left us.

But you are always close at hand.

Thanks be God. Amen.

Opening Prayer (together)

Eternal Spirit, living God, in whom we live and move and have our being, all that we are, have been, and shall be is known to you, to the very secret of our hearts and all that rises to trouble us. Living flame burn into us, cleansing wind, blow through us, fountain of water, well up within us, that we may love and praise in deed and in truth. Invocation Eternal Spirit, flow through our being and open our lips, that our mouths may proclaim your praise. Let us worship the God of love. Alleluia, alleluia.

Music by Barbara

HOW GREAT THOU ART

Vs 1. O Lord my God, When I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works Thy Hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy pow'r throughout, The universe displayed.

CHORUS

Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

Vs 2. When Christ shall come, With shouts of acclamation,
And take me home, What joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim, "My God, how great Thou art!"

CHORUS

Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

PSALM 23 (responsive)

Dear God, you sustain me and feed me: like a shepherd you guide me.

You lead me to an oasis of green, to lie down by restful waters.

You refresh my soul for the journey, and guide me along trusted roads.

The God of justice is your name.

Though I must enter the darkness of death, I will fear no evil.

For you are with me, your rod and staff comfort me.

You prepare a table before my very eyes,

in the presence of those who trouble me.

You anoint my head with oil, and you fill my cup to the brim.

**Your loving kindness and mercy will meet me every day of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of my God for ever.**

Music by Barbara

LORD PREPARE ME

Lord, Prepare me to be a sanctuary
Pure and Holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving I'll be a living
Sanctuary for You

Reading – 1 Thessalonians 1:1-9

Music by Barbara

LORD, LISTEN TO YOUR CHILDREN PRAYING

Lord, listen to Your children praying,
Lord send Your spirit in this place.
Lord, listen to Your children praying,
Send us love, send us power, send us grace.

Prayers

**Into your hands, O God, I commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O God of truth and love.
Keep me, O God, as the apple of your eye;
hide me under the shadow of your wings.**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Creator in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

Music by Matthew

A Prayer of New Life (responsive)

New life in the risen Christ!

Compassion for the struggling.

New life in the risen Christ!

Friendship for the lonely.

New life in the risen Christ!

Fresh talents discovered.

New life in the risen Christ!

Unsuspected opportunities revealed.

New life in the risen Christ!

Injustice confronted,

New life in the risen Christ!

Where there is conflict

New life in the risen Christ!

In time and beyond all time.

As followers of Jesus Christ, you are the givers of new life.

As followers of Jesus Christ, we receive new life.

Thanks be to God.

Assurance of Easter Hope

The depths of despair

Cannot withstand the hope of Christ risen.

Fear of an unknown future

Cannot withstand the hope of Christ risen.

Regret over past actions

Cannot withstand the hope of Christ risen.

Loss that is keenly felt

Cannot withstand the hope of Christ risen.

Even with all of that is present in our lives we can cling to the hope and love that Christ Jesus offers us in his resurrection.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Blessing