

Hope United Church of Christ
March 1, 2026 - Worship Order

Prelude: If You but Trust in God to Guide You - - - arr. David Cherwein

Welcome Pastor Meg

Announcements

Offering and Offering Prayer

Opening Song: No. 84 This is the Day

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: What are you seeking on this journey?

All: We aren't exactly sure. We come looking for comfort, peace, hope and direction.

One: Are you ready to move forward?

All: We sometimes hesitate because we don't know what lies ahead for us.

One: Trust that God is with you.

All: We reach out to God, asking for guidance and compassion as we continue on this Lenten journey. AMEN.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Let Us Pray.

**All: God of Mercy,
We confess that far too often we turn away from you and turn towards our own desires. We have made a half-hearted commitment to follow you. Remind us to move towards you in our thoughts, our words and our actions. Help us to seek your way. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Children's Message: What is Lent?

Special Music: When You Break the Bread by *Ruth Elaine Schram*

Song of the Spirit: "Change My Heart, O God"

Change my heart, O God, Make it ever true.

Change my heart, O God, May I be like You.

You are the Potter, I am the clay.

Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.

Prayer before Scripture

Gospel Reading: Matthew 5:1-12 NRSVUE

Sermon: The Gift of Temptation? Rev. Meg Wilson

Song of Response: Lord, I Need You Matt Maher music video

Prayers of the People: *God of All ...* **Hear Our Prayer**

Lord's Prayer

Song of Preparation: No. 330 Let Us Break Bread Together *verse 1*

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcomed to share in this meal.

Pastor: The Lord is with you!

All: And also with you!

Pastor: Lift up your voices to speak of this great love!

All: We lift them up in joyful acclamation!

Pastor: It is right and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere, to give thanks to you, Living God, time after time, you draw us here to inspire us, feed us, and save us. Especially when our love fails, you are here, steadfast and true. You created this world and called it good. You created us to proclaim your good to all. And so we raise our voices in praise:

All: Holy, holy, holy, God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God, Most High.

Pastor: We remember the life and ministry of Jesus: how he healed the sick, fed the hungry, ate with sinners, and preached forgiveness and peace. It was at this table that he issued the invitation:

All: to gather together, to share together, to remember together, and to go and do likewise in the world.

Pastor: For the Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, also, he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." And so, on this day of resurrection, we raise our voices to proclaim this timeless truth:

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen! Christ will come again!

Pastor: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, your people, and on these gifts of bread and cup. Make us lovers and tellers of your word. Make us ones who heal and share your grace. And make us one body in Jesus Christ. All glory and honor is yours, Almighty God, now and for all time! Amen.

Sharing of the Elements

Pastor: Let us together receive the gift of God, the Bread of Heaven.

All: We are one in Christ in the bread we share.

Pastor: Let us together receive the gift of God, the Cup of Blessing.

All: We are one in Christ in the cup we share.

Prayer after Communion:

Thank you, O Christ, for this feast of life. We are fed by your love; we are strengthened by your life. We are sent forth into this world to live your way and share your joy. We are now called to feed as we have been fed, forgive as we have been forgiven, love as we have been loved. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Closing Song: No.347 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

Benediction:

Blessing: "Go in Peace"

Go in peace and the peace of God be with you this day.

Go in peace and the peace of God be with you always.

Celebrate and share the joy! Celebrate new life!

Go in peace and the peace of God be with you always.

Postlude: Trumpet Tune - - - Brenda Portman