



Hope



PARKWAY
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
November 29, 2020



www.parkwayucc.org

Sunday, November 29, 2020

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Limitless Love | Courageous Action | Spirited Inquiry

Purpose Statement

Parkway United Church of Christ strives to be an inclusive community embracing: spiritual nourishment, open—minded inquiry, courageous action, and interfaith partnerships to fulfill God’s calling to create a just world for all.

Congregational Statement

Parkway United Church of Christ, with God’s grace, seeks to be a congregation that includes all persons, regardless of race, ethnic, or socio—economic background while respecting differences of gender, marital status, age, sexual orientation, and mental and physical ability. We aspire to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God. We invite all to share in the life and leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities and blessings of participation in our open and affirming congregation.

PARKWAY UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

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John Nourse, *Pastor Emeritus*

Welcome to Parkway

Thank you for joining us this morning. Please let us know you are here by commenting in the chat.

Welcome Children. We invite children to full participation in worship.

Bell Rung During Lord's Prayer. A tradition begun when farmers working in surrounding fields would stop their work and join in prayer.

Subscribe to our email lists: Text your email address to 22828 or sign up at www.parkwayucc.org

Communications Requests: Please use the form at www.parkwayucc.org/communications for all announcements for the bulletin/eNews/website/social media/etc. Bulletin and eNews communications request deadline is noon Monday. Bulletin announcements will generally be run for three weeks prior to the event. However, all announcements will be posted via our various publications as fits in our communications strategy and as resources permit.

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Anniversaries

12/1 SCHEFFEL, William & Helen (41)

Birthdays

11/29 COBB, Carol

12/3 OWENS, Pamela

11/30 TALLYN, Kent

12/5 GUERRI, Millicent

12/2 STOLZE, Claire

12/5 RUZICKA, Ryan

12/3 HALE, Lauren

1st Sunday of Advent: Hope

Sunday, November 29 | 10:00am | YouTube Pre-recorded

Meditation *To Carry A Dream—Sarah Are*
To carry a dream is to plant trees in old age,
To be a part of a church, that is human and frayed.
To carry a dream is foolish and wild.
It's the faith of a child,
Wishing on stars.

But to carry a dream is also hopeful and wise
The faith of our elders, saying God will provide.
May they say We are foolish and unwise,
And may we continue to dream; May hope keep us alive.

Lighting of the Candles and Ringing of the Bell

Passing the Hope of Christ “May the hope of Christ be with you.”
(We are intentional about bringing more hope into the world.)

Prelude *Lift Up Your Heads—arr. Albert Beck*

Welcome Song *Hope Before Us*

Hope be - fore us, hope be - hind us,
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

hope un - der our feet.
al - le - lu - ia.

Hope with - in us, hope o - ver us,
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

let all a - round us be hope.
al - le - lu - ia.

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a time signature of 3/4. It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are placed below the notes. There are some musical markings such as dashed lines and circles around certain notes, possibly indicating phrasing or breath marks.

Gathering at the Advent Wreath: Hope

Scripture Luke 1:26-38 (CEB – Common English Bible)

When Elizabeth was six months pregnant, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a city in Galilee, to a virgin who was engaged to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David's house. The virgin's name was Mary. When the angel came to her, he said, "Rejoice, favored one! The Lord is with you!" She was confused by these words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. The angel said, "Don't be afraid, Mary. God is honoring you. Look! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and he will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father. He will rule over Jacob's house forever, and there will be no end to his kingdom."

Then Mary said to the angel, "How will this happen since I haven't had sexual relations with a man?"

The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come over you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the one who is to be born will be holy. He will be called God's Son. Look, even in her old age, your relative Elizabeth has conceived a son. This woman who was labeled 'unable to conceive' is now six months pregnant. Nothing is impossible for God."

Then Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant. Let it be with me just as you have said." Then the angel left her.

Response *Mary Heard the Angel's Message*

BEECHER 8.7.8.7 D (*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*)

**Mary heard the angel's message: "Greetings, Mary, favored one!
Do not fear, for God is with you; You will one day bear God's Son."
Filled with questions, filled with wonder,
She proclaimed her faith in God:
"May it be as you have spoken; I'm the servant of the Lord!"**

**When she heard her cousin's greeting,
Mary's heart was filled with joy,
So she sang of God's great blessing Promised in her baby boy:
"God has looked on me with favor, So I sing this song of praise.
God has worked, the proud to scatter...
Humble, hungry ones to raise."**

**Mary heard the shepherds' story,
Words she treasured with delight.
Then an angel gave the warning: "Flee with Jesus in the night!"
Mary wondered in her anguish,
What would be the pain he'd know?
Fleeing then, she held him closely...One day she would let him go.**

**Mary heard, "Who is my mother? Who is in my family?
All who do my Father's bidding—All these ones belong to me."
Later, on the hill she heard him, "Woman, see your new son there!
You, my friend, behold your mother!"
So Christ formed new bonds of care.**

**When they learned the Lord had risen,
Christ's disciples met to pray.
Mary was among the faithful, Bound in love, on Jesus' Way.
God, we see her, Christ's disciple, Loving, learning, serving, too.
Like her, may we hear and answer,
"We, your servants, live for you."**

Listening for Hope

Response *In The Bulb There is A Flower*

**In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree.
There's a dawn in every darkness bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

Children's Time Children and Youth are invited to separate Zoom classrooms immediately following this Children's Time.

Blessing the Children *Be Near Me, Lord Jesus*

**Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
And teach us, dear Jesus, to laugh and to share.**

Scripture Matthew 1:18-25 (MSG – The Message)

The birth of Jesus took place like this. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. Before they came to the marriage bed, Joseph discovered she was pregnant. (It was by the Holy Spirit, but he didn't know that.)

Joseph, chagrined but noble, determined to take care of things quietly so Mary would not be disgraced.

While he was trying to figure a way out, he had a dream. God's angel spoke in the dream: "Joseph, son of David, don't hesitate to get married. Mary's pregnancy is Spirit-conceived. God's Holy Spirit has made her pregnant.

She will bring a son to birth, and when she does, you, Joseph, will name him Jesus - 'God saves' - because he will save his people from their sins."

This would bring the prophet's embryonic sermon to full term:

Watch for this - a virgin will get pregnant and bear a son; They will name him Emmanuel (Hebrew for "God is with us").

Then Joseph woke up. He did exactly what God's angel commanded in the dream: He married Mary.

But he did not consummate the marriage until she had the baby. He named the baby Jesus.

Response *Gentle Joseph, Joseph*



1 "Gen - tle Jo - seph, Jo - seph dear, stay with me, for the
2 "Glad - ly Mar - y, Mar - y mine, I will cra - dle the
3 "Peace to all and God's good-will," heaven and earth with this

ba - by's near; God will sure - ly your good - ness hear, as
child di - vine; Here will heav - en and earth com - bine, for
song will fill; Soon will God, in the eve - ning still, be

you will love this new - born child," says Mar - y.
you will bear God's child, O dear - est Mar - y."
born in Beth - le - hem, the child of Mar - y.

Sermon *Hope Whispers and Shouts*

Call to Prayer *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*



Lord, lis - ten to your chil - dren pray - ing, _____

Lord, send your Spir - it in this place; _____

Lord, lis - ten to your chil - dren pray - ing, _____ send us

love, send us power, send us grace. _____

Pastoral Prayer & Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

Our [Creator/Mother/Father/Holy One] who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

[A variety of names for God are welcome here – including in the Lord's Prayer.]

Song *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*



1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
2. O come, Thou Day - spring, come and cheer Our spir - its
3. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind All peo - ples



cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
by Thine ad - vent here; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of
in one heart and mind; Bid en - vy, strife, and dis - cord



here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
night, And death's dark shad - ows put to flight. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
cease; Fill the whole world with heav - en's peace.



Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Mission Moment 2nd Mile Advent

Circle of Concern | Emmaus Homes | The Christmas Fund

Offering Our Gifts to God

Offering Interlude *I Wonder, As I Wander*—arr. Dan Fox

Based on the carol by John Jacob Niles

Response

Praise God for gifts of hope and peace

Praise God for gifts of joy and love

Praise God for sending Christ to dwell

On earth for us—Emmanuel. Amen...

Prayer of Dedication

Holy here—and not yet here—we are grateful for the gift of Your love, which is beyond our understanding. Thank You for the glimpses of You and the ability to share You with others. May these gifts be expressions of our gratitude. Let them link us with You, with each other, and with the world you hold in Your peace embrace. May these gifts be messages of hope and beacons of light against the darkness in our world. May they even bring joy! Amen.

Song of Parting *Song of Hope*

Words for 2nd verse—Evelyn Buretta



May the God of hope go with us ev - ery day, Fill - ing all our



lives with love and joy and peace. May the God of jus - tice speed us



on our way, Bring - ing light and hope to ev - ery land and race.



Pray - ing, let us work for peace, Sing - ing, share our joy with all,



Work - ing for a world that's new, Faith - ful when we hear Christ's call.

**Keep a prayer within your heart throughout the day
Hope is always there for those who trust the Lord
Give your time and comfort in a simple way
Call for justice, hope will surely be restored.**

**Giving, use our gifts with love,
Helping, for the ones in need,
Striving, for equality
Justice, when the need demands.**

Benediction

God's Light Goes Forth

Music for Going Forth *Hark the Glad Sound*—arr. Albert Beck
Based on the hymn tune *Chesterfield*

Announcements

Announcements

Join Us for Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue (TAD) 12/1

1st & 3rd Tuesdays beginning 11/17 | 2:00-3:00pm | via ZOOM
TED has a new sibling! Introducing TAD, Tuesday afternoon Dialogue, a Zoom book discussion group. Everyone is welcome. We are meeting the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month. The book we have selected is *Almost Everything: Notes on Hope by Anne Lamott*—an exploration of hope and the place it holds in our lives. Copies are available through local bookstores, Amazon, and local libraries. We continue the second meeting of this new adventure, and hope to see you on Zoom. Questions or comments? contact Gerry Rogers: gcr123055@gmail.com or Jackie Eiffert: jeiffert2@gmail.com

Video:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83670617428?pwd=bUxPZEdDMlU4ay9oNndTWw4yZUYwUT09>

Join by phone: 312 626 6799 | **Meeting ID:** 836 7061 7428 | **Passcode:** 480007

Pledge Campaign for our Mission & Ministry 2021

It's not too late to make a pledge of your 2021 contribution. This helps us plan a budget for the year. You may fill out and return the form below or submit an electronic pledge card from our website:
<https://parkwayucc.org/giving/pledge/>

Thank you for your continuing support of Parkway United Church of Christ.



Parkway UCC 2021 Pledge

General Ministries* \$ _____
*Includes Missions

Building Fund _____

How often do you plan to give?

- Weekly
- Monthly
- Quarterly
- Annually

My Total 2021 Giving: \$ _____

Print name _____

Signature _____

Keep for your Records

General Ministries \$ _____

Building Fund \$ _____

Total 2021 Giving: \$ _____

**Beloved,
let us love one another,
because love is from God;
everyone who loves
is born of God
and knows God.** 1 John 4:7



Frequency:

Weekly Monthly Quarterly Annually

Scouting for Food is the annual food drive that occurs in November when young scouts tie a bag around your front door one Saturday and then come to pick up your generous donations of non-perishable food items the following Saturday. It has been canceled this year. One way they are keeping their commitment to hungry people in our area is by encouraging you to send a financial contribution instead. Their promotional materials say that \$1 = 4 meals. Please consider texting 'scoutfood' to 91999 today.

Alzheimer's Walk Recap

The results of the St. Louis Walk to End Alzheimer's have been tabulated. The St. Louis Walk was the 4th largest in the country. In this year of COVID and the walk in neighborhoods, Parkway's contribution was \$1,670.00. Thank you, Parkway. Donations are still accepted on the website:

http://act.alz.org/site/TR?team_id=619694&pg=team&fr_id=13574 or by checks made payable to: Alzheimer's Association. Send them to me so I can submit them with a donation form to be credited to the PUCC team. They must be received by Dec. 31, 2020. Thanks to all who donated, walked in our small group of 6, and supported the *Walk To End Alzheimer's*.

~Joyce Ruiz, Faith Outreach Ambassador and Team Captain.

Prayer List

as of November 25, 2020

Celebrations

Cherie Stolze - earned her Master of Arts in Ministry and Culture!

All the acts of kindness that are happening near and far!

The momentum toward justice and equity.

Thanksgiving!

Concerns

Liz Lyons - as she recuperates at home after recent surgery.

Bob Boyd and family - as they grieve and give thanks for Karen.

A celebration of her life took place virtually at PUCG. Experience it here -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mjj3vI75yy4>

Also, you may want to read her obituary...

<https://www.schrader.com/obituary/karen-seibert>

<https://anesthesiology.wustl.edu/obituary-karen-seibert/>

Claire Stolze; Mary and Jenna Watson; Roseann D and Carol C - at various stages in their healing from Covid-19.

Justin Williamson - intensive care at St. Luke's Hospital (Svenson).

Tommy Kurz 14 yr old - brain surgery on Dec 7 to alleviate seizures.

Healthcare workers, homeless and many others at risk right now.

Physical Distancing... if anyone needs groceries, medicine and/or other

support, please reach out to kevin@parkwayucc.org; 314-330-0629

People who are struggling with their mental health.

People who aren't feeling safe at home but are remaining there.

Individuals in all levels of leadership as they make decisions today.

Healing of relationships between the public and the police.

Those affected by natural disasters yesterday/today/tomorrow

Continuing

Bill Haack and family - grieving/giving thanks for his father.

Judy Toombs and family as they grieve the sudden death of Gene.

Cherie & Mike Stolze - her health; her father's kidney disease.

Nelson Spencer - very serious heart condition (Ellie Svenson).

Blake - recent cancer diagnosis (Greg Schmelig).

Lori Connors - for strength, stamina through some health challenges.

Ruth Peace & Pinky Wilcoxon - PUCG sisters with health challenges.

Bill Darland - ongoing health issues.

Anthony - multiple challenges as he lives his post-incarceration life.

Gary - risky behaviors; seeking balance and stability (McKenzie).

Grateful Tran - in prison; struggles w/schizophrenia (Evelyn Buretta)

Bob - continues to struggle with Parkinson's (McKenzie).

Christopher, Gail & Bill Haack - chronic health challenges.

The extended Eggebrecht Family - healing and wholeness.

Home/Care Facility/Rehab Center

Millicent Guerri - living with cancer... 14300 Conway Meadows Ct E, Chesterfield, MO 63017 [birthdate: December 5]

Marv Herpel - *Brookdale West County*; 785 Henry Ave, #217; Ballwin, MO 63021; 636-227-5838 [birthdate: March 3]

Pat Klein - *Anthology Senior Living of Wildwood*; 251 Plaza Dr, #325; Wildwood, MO 63040 [birthdate: September 21]

Bill Klein - *Anthology Senior Living of Wildwood*; 251 Plaza Dr, #104; Wildwood, MO 63040 [birthdate: March 8]

Pearl Sellenriek - *Friendship Village Memory Care Division* #1001; 15250 Olive Blvd, Chesterfield, MO 63017 [birthdate: March 31]

Dwight Smith - *Garden View*; 13612 Big Bend Rd, Room #2407; Valley Park, MO 63088; 636-923-8693. Now Charlotte can walk from *Cape Albeon* to visit with him at his window. [birthdate: September 6]

Sue Houser - *Bethany Ctr for Rehab & Healing*; 421 Ocala Dr - #209B; Nashville, TN 37211; 615-577-2049. [birthdate: July 8]

Other

President Trump, Congress, all local, national, world leaders - those continuing, starting, returning to leadership... including **Biden|Harris**.

The “me too” Movement - shining a light on sexual abuse.

All people who live with mental illness.

PUCC Family (and others) struggling with healthcare costs and limits.

Our Missouri Mid-South Conference and St Louis Assn UCC

Variety of Parkway members/friends - employment issues.

Victims of Natural and Created Disasters around the world.

Peace and Justice near and far.

US Military around the globe.

St Louis Assn UCC Covenant Partner

Week ending November 29 - Zion UCC, Florissant; zionuccstl.org

Week ending December 6 - St. Martin UCC, High Ridge; smartinucc-hr.com

1st Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2020

Where Are You, God?

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19

In the book, *The Words of Her Mouth: Psalms for the Struggle*, published at the beginning of this year by The Pilgrim Press, ten women writers responded to the 150 Biblical psalms with words of their own. Not a retelling of the psalms or an alternate translation, instead the book is a reply to those ancient words, engaging them for today.

Editor Martha Spong reports that over the course of the twelve months of 2019, she “watched a book idea that had lived only in my hopes grow from a conversation in an airport in January to a manuscript being sent to the printer in December. I had the joy of inviting nine women to work with me and the delight of hearing a yes from each of them. We all felt excited, and daunted, to engage with the psalms personally, yet also for a future audience of readers. Some of us do this weekly in crafting liturgy; here we wrote not for the collective voices of a congregation, but out of our particular contexts and experiences. It is an offering both to God and readers in this season of extreme division, full of passion and persistence. My hope is that readers will recognize themselves in the words of our mouths and be inspired to articulate their own psalms for the struggle.”

Like the psalms themselves, the poems and prayers in *The Words of Her Mouth* are both deeply personal and widely universal and address a range of human experience and emotions. In response to Psalm 88, United Church of Christ Pastor Rev. Jennifer Garrison Brownell writes,

“Here are my tears,” you said. “Eat. And these are my tears, too. Drink.”

“Too salty!” we cried. “We can’t eat this sorrow! We can’t drink this suffering! We will die!”

You heard our protests and you lifted the plate and the cup anyway.

Most of us turned away. But some of us stayed to eat and drink with you, and we did not die as we had feared.

In truth, we lived. In truth, we live still.

Spong, Martha, ed. *The Words of Her Mouth: Psalms for the Struggle*.
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