

River Source - Your Guide to Worship

5th Sunday in Easter--April 29, 2018



Welcome. We are so glad you are here.

*Everything you need to participate in worship is projected on the screen.
If you read music, it is available on the usher stand in the hallway. Ask an usher or help yourself.*

Acts 17:16-31

¹⁶While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply distressed to see that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷So he argued in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and also in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸Also some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers debated with him. Some said, "What does this babbling want to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign divinities." (This was because he was telling the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.) ¹⁹So they took him and brought him to the Areopagus and asked him, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? ²⁰It sounds rather strange to us, so we would like to know what it means." ²¹Now all the Athenians and the foreigners living there would spend their time in nothing but telling or hearing something new. ²²Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.' ²⁹Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

Here's what to expect at River of Hope:

GIFT - Generations In Faith Together. Worship is intentionally intergenerational. "Sunday School" happens within worship. You'll speak ancient words in new ways and sing old hymns that never get old. We practice the story together. We are actively engaged in questions, prayers, and singing together. We learn so much from each other when we worship together. It's a gift, isn't it? Remember, this isn't about excellence or perfection, it's about participation.

Come as you are. Well, you're already here. It doesn't matter what you wear or what kind of shape your spiritual life is in. God meets you and loves you where you are.

Where everybody knows your name? Name tags are awkward, right? We all wear them - not just the visitors. It's an effort to be open and to show this is a safe place to be called by name.

We like kids. No kidding. We think kids are leaders in worship, always teaching us how to live. Parents, please breathe easy. We are with you.

Pray Ground. Stay in worship with your kids. Join them on the pray ground. If it all falls apart, take to the halls. We'll pray for you. 😊

Communion. You are welcome, without exception. If you are hungry and thirsty for unbounded grace, mercy, and forgiveness through Jesus Christ, you are welcome at Christ's table.

Connection Cards. For regulars and visitors to use to communicate and pray. We won't use your info to bother you.

Financial Offering. Giving generously is part of an active faith life. It looks different for each person. River of Hope depends on your giving and is grateful for how and what you share.

- There is a card reader located at the back of the worship space. There are instructions with it. Go ahead and use it.
- Go online to riverofhopehutchinson.org. Click on "give."
- You can support Laundry Love by putting money in the watering can.

On the way out...You'll be handed the Weekly River News that includes prayers to pray and scripture to read for the week, along with a calendar and other goings-on in our life together.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

GATHER

Music to Prepare Us
Gathering Songs
*Introduce Theme of the Day
Welcome 101
No Longer Strangers Prayer
Practice Saying Hello
Confession
Promise of Forgiveness
Greeting
Prayer of the Day

WORD

Hymn of Praise
Acts 9:1-19
Wade in the Word
Sermon
Prayers of the People
Offering + Singing

FEAST

*Setting the Table
Thanksgiving at the Table
The Lord's Prayer
Communion + Singing
Prayer after Communion

SEND

What is Our Purpose?
Milestones!
Blessing
*Sending Song
*Sending Charge
Music to Send You Out to Serve

**Kids are invited to participate throughout worship, but especially in these spots.*

You are invited to pray at the prayer stations at any time during worship today.