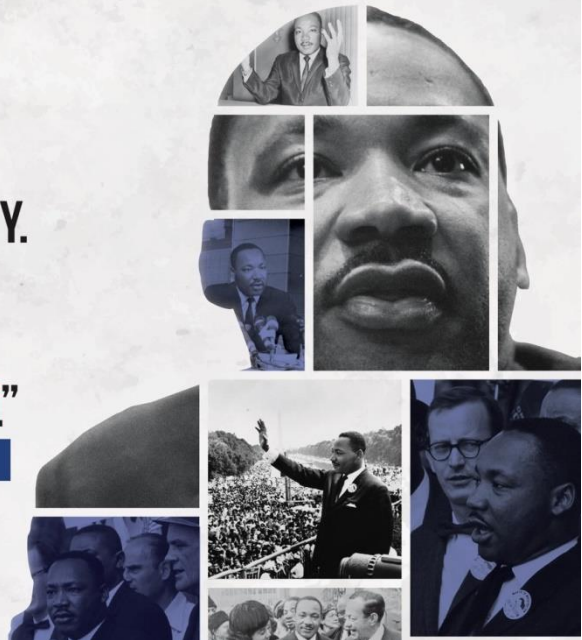


**"I BELIEVE THAT UNARMED TRUTH
AND UNCONDITIONAL LOVE
WILL HAVE THE FINAL WORD IN REALITY.
THIS IS WHY RIGHT,
TEMPORARILY DEFEATED,
IS STRONGER THAN EVIL TRIUMPHANT."**

DR. KING, 1964 NOBEL PEACE PRIZE ACCEPTANCE ADDRESS



CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
30 N. CLINTON ST.
IOWA CITY, IA 52245
319-337-4301

WORSHIP FOR JANUARY 17, 2021
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
THE REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. SUNDAY

PRELUDE "Andante tranquillo" from Sonata III Felix Mendelssohn

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Ruth Duck)

From the midst of our real lives and real world,
filled with real problems, enmities, tragedies, and pain,

**we come to seek courage and strength from the presence of God,
the gift of faith, and the support of one another.**

As persons who love imperfectly and who are loved imperfectly,

we come to be renewed by the ever-present love of God,

Then let us worship with hearts open to the love of God,

**with hands outstretched to a hurting world,
and with our whole selves**

willing to continue to learn the way of Jesus Christ.

HYMN "There Is a Balm in Gilead"

**There is a balm in Gilead
to make the wounded whole,
there is a balm in Gilead
to heal the sin-sick soul.**

**Sometimes I feel discouraged,
And think my work's in vain,
But then the Holy Spirit
Revives my soul again. [Refrain]**

**Don't ever feel discouraged,
For Jesus is your friend;
And if you lack for knowledge
He'll not refuse to lend. [Refrain]**

**If you cannot preach like Peter,
If you cannot pray like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus,
And say, "He died for all." [Refrain]**

OPENING PRAYER (A prayer of Martin Luther King, Jr.)

God, we thank you for the inspiration of Jesus. Grant that we will love you with all our hearts, souls, and minds, and love our neighbors as we love ourselves, even our enemy neighbors. And we ask you, God, in these days of emotional tension, when the problems of the world are gigantic in extent and chaotic in detail, to be with us in our going out and our coming in, in our rising up and in our lying down, in our moments of joy and in our moments of sorrow, until the day when there shall be no sunset and no dawn. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Jeremiah 8:4-9

PSALM 42

As the deer longs for flowing streams,
so longs my soul for you, O God.

**My soul is athirst for God, athirst for the living God;
when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?**

My tears have been my food day and night,
while all day long they say to me,
"Where now is your God?"

**I pour out my soul when I think on these things:
how I went with the multitude and led them into the house of God,
with the voice of praise and thanksgiving,
among those who keep the festival.**

Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul?
and why are you so disquieted within me?

**Put your trust in God;
for I will yet give thanks to the One
who is the help of my countenance, and my God.**

My soul is heavy within me;
therefore I will remember you from the land of Jordan,
and from the peak of Mizar among the heights of Hermon.

**Deep calls to deep at the thunder of your cataracts;
all your rapids and floods have gone over me.**

The Lord grants loving-kindness in the daytime;
in the night season the song of the Lord is with me,
a prayer to the God of my life.

**I will say to the God of my strength,
"Why have you forgotten me?
and why do I go so heavily while the enemy oppresses me?"**

While my bones are being broken,
my enemies mock me to my face;

**all day long they mock me
and say to me, "Where now is your God?"**

Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul?
and why are you so disquieted within me?

**Put your trust in God;
for I will yet give thanks to the One
who is the help of my countenance, and my God.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 26:47-56

SERMON "Courage in Uncertain Times"

TIME OF GRATITUDE

ANTHEM "O Lord, let me find help" Felix Mendelssohn
Wen Chen Liu, Josh Ramseyer, Kristin Ramseyer, Colin Wilson

(English Translation)

O Lord, let me find help,
Incline graciously to my supplication,
If you will remember my sins,
Nevermore can I survive.

Should my worries last forever?
Shall my enemies mock?
Weak and helpless I should mourn
And be forgotten by you.

O Lord, let me find help
Incline graciously to my supplication,

If you will remember my sins,
Nevermore can I survive.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN "Lift Every Voice and Sing" James Weldon Johnson, J. Rosamond Johnson

**Lift every voice and sing
'Til earth and heaven ring
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the listening skies
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun
Let us march on 'til victory is won**

**Stony the road we trod
Bitter the chastening rod
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died
Yet with a steady beat
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our parents sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered
Out from the gloomy past
'Til now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast**

**God of our weary years
God of our silent tears
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way
Thou who has by Thy might
Led us into the light
Keep us forever in the path, we pray
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee
Shadowed beneath Thy hand
May we forever stand
True to our God
True to our native land**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Maestoso" Johann Kindermann

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION OF THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC OF IOWA CITY will be held by Zoom at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, January 31, 2021. We will receive reports of Boards and Committees, vote on the budget for 2021, vote on proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws of the congregation, and transact any other business that is fitting and necessary.

The Bible study of Paul's letter to the Philippians continues this Wednesday. Paul wrote this letter from prison and did not know what his fate would be. Although Paul was suffering and writing out of uncertainty, a sense of joy comes through in this letter. It seems to me that this letter might speak to us in these uncertain days. We gather by Zoom at 7:00 on Wednesday evenings, looking at one chapter of this book each week. This Wednesday we'll look at chapter 2. If you are interested in being a part of this study, please let Bill know by calling him at the church (337-4301) or sending an email to him at uccicrev@uccic.org.

RECORDINGS OF THE WORSHIP SERVICES are posted by early Sunday morning each week at <https://vimeo.com/channels/1547852>. The recordings remain up permanently, so you can watch past worship services at your convenience or recommend them to a friend.

DO YOU HAVE A HYMN THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SING IN THE COMING MONTHS? Let Bill Lovin know. This is no guarantee that we will sing it, as the hymn will need to be covered by our reprint license, fit with the rest of the worship service and work for the person who will be leading the singing—but we'd like to hear from you and sing a new song.

WE WANT TO SEE YOU! We would like to have members and friends be a part of the greeting time during our online worship. Please send us a brief—10-30 second—video of you or your family waving, saying “Hi,” singing, or whatever you would like. Or send a photo. We'll start including a few of these in the worship service each week as a way to strengthen our connections with each other. Send your greeting videos to https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1UcrZ4ya9xFir39cG_1x-SCO6dVPBbV0B?usp=sharing

FREE VIRTUAL FILM SCREENING: JOHN LEWIS: GOOD TROUBLE—The Iowa City Beloved Community Initiative gives everyone a chance to see this movie online. An intimate account of legendary U.S. Representative John Lewis' life, legacy and more than 60 years of extraordinary activism — from the bold teenager on the front lines of the Civil Rights movement to the legislative powerhouse he was throughout his career. After Lewis petitioned Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to help integrate a segregated school in his hometown of Troy, Alabama, King sent “the boy from Troy” a round trip bus ticket to meet with him. From that meeting onward, Lewis became one of King's closest allies. He organized Freedom Rides that left him bloodied or jailed, and stood at the front lines in the historic marches on Washington and Selma. He never lost the spirit of the “boy from Troy” and called on his fellow Americans to get into “good trouble” until his passing on July 17, 2020.

This film will be available to stream Jan. 15–30 for free. Click here for the [Streaming Link](#)