

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

WORSHIP FOR OCTOBER 11, 2020
NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

“There is much to be done, more than inevitably limited people can see at a given moment. But the other side of our limitation is the fact that it carries with it a promise that we still might see a new birth of freedom, and another one beyond that. Democracy is the great instrument of human advancement. We have no right to fail it.”

Marilynne Robinson

PRELUDE “A Tender Spiritual” Stanley Vann

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

How good it is to sing praises to our God;
for God is gracious and a song of praise is fitting.

God builds up the city and gathers the outcasts.

God heals the brokenhearted and binds up our wounds.

Hope in God’s steadfast love
Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving.

HYMN “This Is My Maker’s World”

**This is my Maker’s world; And to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings
The music of the spheres.
This is my Maker’s world: I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
God’s hand the wonders wrought.**

**God reigns o’er all the earth! Green hills and valleys low,
The farms and towns in golds and browns
God’s grace and beauty show.
God reigns o’er all the earth! Stone banks and spreading plains,
In autumn hues--reds, yellows, blues--
of streams and country lanes.**

**This is my Maker’s world; Oh, let me ne’er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.
This is my Maker’s world; why should my heart be sad?**

**The heavens ring; let nature sing.
God reigns; let earth be glad.**

OPENING PRAYER

God, your love is steadfast and your mercy never ceases.

We long for new days or for past days, when all seemed well, our purposes clear, and we were strong in our hope.

We hear the promise that you will complete the good work you started in us, but our faith is slight.

Yet even in our brokenness we seek to know your ways.

Help us to know that your purposes endure.

Help us to trust that all you desire for this world remains.

In all the tasks we are given to do, may we pursue those things that sustain this good world; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE LESSON Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18

PSALM 33

Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous;
it is good for the just to sing praises.

**Praise the Lord with the harp;
play upon the psaltery and lyre.**

Sing for the Lord a new song;
sound a fanfare with all your skill upon the trumpet.

**For your word, O Lord, is right,
and all your works are sure.**

You love righteousness and justice;
your loving-kindness, O Lord, fills the whole earth.

**By your word, O Lord, were the heavens made,
by the breath of your mouth all the heavenly hosts.**

You gather up the waters of the ocean as in a water-skin
and store up the depths of the sea.

**Let all the earth fear the Lord;
let all who dwell in the world stand in reverence.**

For the Lord spoke, and it came to pass;
the Lord commanded, and it stood fast.

**The Lord brings the will of the nations to naught
and thwarts the designs of the peoples.**

But the Lord's will stands fast forever,
and the designs of the Lord's heart from age to age.

**Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord!
happy the people you have chosen to be your own!**

Our soul waits for you, O Lord;
you are our help and our shield.

**'til we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

POSTLUDE “Finale” Alan Ridout

God Reigns O'er All the Earth - Jane Parker Huber Words - ©1987 Presbyterian Publishing/Westminster John Knox/Geneva Press Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-715458. All rights reserved. The tune is in the public domain.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Our office manager, Leo Agnew, moved out of town just as the pandemic was shutting down many activities, including those here at the church. Since April, our Communication Assistant, Christina Patramanis, has been staffing the office for 2-3 hours on Tuesday and Thursday. Because the need for office staff is minimal right now, we have delayed hiring a permanent replacement. With the start of the school year, Christina will change her hours, working on *either* Tuesday or Thursday, from 10-noon or 1:00 p.m. as needed. This coming week she will be in the office on Tuesday, October 13. The following week she will be at the church on Thursday, October 22.

Bill Lovin has started taking Monday as his day off to accommodate the schedule of recording the worship service on Saturday morning. Bill is generally in the office during the day on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday and works from home on Friday. Our stewardship assistant, Nan Martin, is in the office on Friday.

As always, you can reach the church at 337-4301. Please leave a message if no one is available when you call. You can also contact the church office by email at uccicadmin@uccic.org. And Bill can be reached at uccicrev@uccic.org.

UN AIDS OFFERING WILL BE RECEIVED NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18. On Sunday, October 18, we will receive our annual special offering to support the UN AIDS program. We have been dealing with AIDS for nearly 40 years and UNAIDS estimates 34 million people are living with HIV and nearly 30 million people have died of AIDS-related causes since the first case of AIDS was reported in June 1981. Global AIDS response continues to show results as a record number of people access treatment and rates of new HIV infections fall by nearly 25%. Please give generously to support this work.

THE NEW ZOOM BIBLE STUDY HAS STARTED. We are looking at the Gospel of Mark for eight sessions, two chapters each week, on Wednesday evenings from 7-8:30. If you would still like to be a part of this or have any questions, please call Bill Lovin at church (337-4301) or send him an email at uccicrev@uccic.org. There is some interest in a daytime session as well. If you would like to be a part of a daytime study, please let Bill know.

TEE OFFERING UPDATE. Gifts for the TEE offering continue to come in. So far we have received \$1085 toward our annual offering to support the Theological Education by Extension College in South Africa (TEE Offering). Thank you for your generous giving. There is still time to give if you haven't already. This offering has been a tradition in our congregation for several decades. It was initially started when the brother of our then minister, the Rev. Ed Heininger,

worked for TEE in South Africa. TEE is a private, nonprofit, distance learning institution serving five south African countries. The mission of the college is to equip men and women for Christian ministry. Students come from 28 denominations across southern Africa including the UCC of South Africa. For more information about this amazing program, please visit their website at www.tee.co.za.

STAYING CONNECTED AND GETTING TOGETHER—We miss one another! As the pandemic closure continues, we want to strengthen our ties to each other. Online worship, Zoom and Facebook Coffee Hours and Zoom Christian Education events help. Many are interested in small, outdoor, in-person gatherings. We plan to set up a few of these in the coming weeks—times to bring a cup of coffee and talk in a park or other creative ways of getting together. The weekly updates will give more information. And if you have ideas or want to help with this, please call the church office (337-4301) or email Bill 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

WINTER CLOTHING DISTRIBUTION: This year's Winter Clothing Distribution (WCD) will be conducted over a period of several weeks (September 28 – November 21) at the old “CarQuest” Building, 821 South Clinton Street, Iowa City (NW corner of Clinton & Benton Streets). Several Congregational UCC members took the coats we had stored at the church last spring to the distribution site on Wednesday, October 1.

Donations are Needed: WARM Clothing in good condition – new, or gently used and clean, for all ages. **Winter Outerwear** is our focus: Coats, hats, scarves, mittens or gloves, snow pants, and winter boots. We will also accept warm sweaters, sweatshirts, sweatpants. PLEASE carefully review your items before dropping them off. We will NOT be accepting Halloween costumes this year

Items in bags or boxes should be dropped off by organizations or individuals at the back (west) door, adjacent to the large parking lot, October 1-9, from 10:00 a.m. until 4 p.m. (Note: on Saturday the 3rd, we will close at 2 p.m.)

Volunteers are Needed to: set-up; receive, sort, and organize clothing; escort family representatives selecting clothing; and clean up during this event, using four two-hour shifts (generally from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.). The sign-up for days / times will be done via Sign-Up Genius. You will be notified when this is ready for use.

Distribution of clothing will begin on Monday, October 12. The facility will be closed October 26 through November 3.

Various safety precautions are being taken in light of COVID-19. During the distribution of clothing, only one adult representative from three families will be admitted each half-hour to select clothing items with a physically distanced volunteer escort.

To help ensure your safety:

1. Assure that you are in good health and have not been exposed to COVID-19.
2. Bring your own multi-layer face mask. If one is not available, we will provide one.
3. Upon arrival, we will conduct a brief health status survey and perform a non-invasive check of your body temperature.
4. If you are going to escort the family representative who is shopping (October 12th through November 20th), also bring a face shield. If one is not available, we will provide one onsite. Non-latex gloves will also be provided.
5. Approved hand sanitizer will be available onsite.
6. Restrooms, for volunteers only, will be cleaned regularly.

For further questions, please contact WCD co-chairs John Barr (barrjohno@sau.edu) or Carolyn Otis (carolyn.otis@gmail.com)

FOOD BANK RETURNS TO ACCEPTING IN-KIND DONATIONS: The CommUnity Food Bank is able to accept donations of food and household items by appointment. Appointments will be available Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 8am-4pm.

There are 3 ways to request an appointment to drop off an in-kind donation. You can:

- Call the Food Bank at 319-351-0128
- E-mail donations@builtbycommunity.org, or
- Set up an appointment at [this link](#)

More information about the types of items we are able to accept is available [on their website](#).

TABLE TO TABLE CAN USE YOUR HELP:

Garden Recovery Program: Calling all Gardeners! Table to Table is looking for home gardeners with extra produce to donate. You grow and harvest it, and they will pick it up! Start

donating now by contacting T2T at gardendonation@table2table.org, or by calling 319-337-3400.

Gleaning Program: Let's go glean! Help us glean (harvest) food from local farms to donate to our neighbors in need. Flexible schedule and social distancing outdoors. To volunteer, contact Table to Table at gleaning@table2table.org or call 319-337-3400.

Ten Thousand Villages will be financially empowering Pakistani women by hosting their 4th Annual Fair Trade Rug Event October 7-11 at the Iowa River Landing, Ste 110. Approximately 300 rugs, each handmade in Pakistani homes by fairly paid adult artisans, will be available in a variety of unique designs and sizes ranging from 2' x 3' to 10' x 14' and runners. Wed-Sat 10 am-7 pm, Sun 11 am-5 pm

Ten Thousand Villages Iowa City is seeking an Executive Director. This person will be in charge of the retail store on the downtown Ped Mall. Responsibilities include staffing, purchasing inventory, and management duties. The desire is for applicants to be strong supporters of fair trade and the Village's mission. Submit resumes to Wendell Miller at wendellm1951@gmail.com.

THE OBERMANN CENTER FOR ADVANCED STUDIES invites all interested members and friends of our congregation to a community conversation the Obermann Center and the Theatre Arts Department are holding this afternoon from 4-6 p.m. The event is modeled on the Civic Dinners program in Atlanta which brings people of good will together to use art and ideas to ground small group discussions about challenging issues.

In the first event of this new series, they will reflect on the theme *Finding Your Place in Conflicted Histories*. This will open with a live reading of *A Refugee in Detroit*, written by Keith Josef Adkins and performed by UI Theatre Arts actors. Then UI Professor Jessica Welburn Paige will discuss her study of Black resilience in Detroit, then shift to small groups to share our thoughts, experiences, hopes, and plans for more inclusive, just communities.

Please note that registration is required so that they can send individuals the Zoom address for the gathering:

<https://uiowa.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJIqfumppj4jHNHPvvsuhwm3Mfw2142zMyU5>