



Stewardship is Heart Work

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

WORSHIP FOR OCTOBER 18, 2020
TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

“As God bestows his benefits upon us, let us beware that we acknowledge it towards him by doing good to our neighbors whom he offers to us, so as we neither exempt ourselves from their want, nor seclude them from our abundance, but gently make them partakers with us, as folk that are linked together in an inseparable bond.”

John Calvin

PRELUDE “Praise to the Lord” Gerhard Krapf

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 103)

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God’s holy name.

**Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and do not forget all God’s benefits—**

who forgives all your sin
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
**who is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

HYMN “Awake, Awake to Love and Work”

**Awake, awake to love and work!
The lark is in the sky;
The fields are wet with diamond dew;
The worlds awake to cry
Their blessings on the Lord of life,
As He goes meekly by.**

**Come, let thy voice be one with theirs,
Shout with their shout of praise;
See how the giant sun soars up,
Great lord of years and days!
So let the love of Jesus come
And set thy soul ablaze.**

**To give and give, and give again,
What God hath given thee;
To spend thyself nor count the cost;
To serve right gloriously
The God who gave all worlds that are,
And all that are to be.**

OPENING PRAYER

O God, keep us from going about with our eyes cast down and consumed by all that worries us. Lift us out of our confinement to see the world revealing before us the splendor of your creation hidden in every leaf. Rouse us from our preoccupations so we can seek out and see the same splendor of your image hidden within everyone who accompanies us through our daily lives. Remind us to find within ourselves that same image of yourself we find in others even when it lies obscured by regret or failure or despair.

Holy Spirit, leaves fall and light falls; your people and our powers of discernment fail. Be that light that illumines our way. Amen.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 46:1-10

PSALM 116:1-2, 12-19

I love the Lord, because the Lord has heard the voice of my supplication and inclined an ear to me whenever I cried out.

**The cords of death entangled me;
the grip of the grave took hold of me;
I came to grief and sorrow.**

How shall I repay you, O Lord,
for all the good things you have done for me?

**I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call upon the name of the Lord.**

I will fulfill my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all the chosen people.

**Precious in your sight, O Lord,
is the death of your servants.**

O Lord, I am your servant;
I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.

**I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and call upon the name of the Lord.**

I will fulfill my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all the people,
**in the courts of the Lord's house,
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.
Hallelujah!**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 22:15-22

SERMON “The Things That Belong to God”

TIME OF GRATITUDE

ANTHEM “Praise to the Lord” Hugo Distler
 Wen Chin Liu, Avery Nabholz, Josh Ramseyer, Colin Wilson

HYMN “Give to Me, Lord, a Thankful Heart”

**Give to me, Lord, a thankful heart
And a discerning mind;
Give, as I play the Christian's part,
The strength to finish what I start
And act on what I find.**

**When, in the rush of days, my will
Is habit bound and slow,
Help me to keep in vision, still,
What love and power and peace can fill
A life that trusts in you.**

**By your divine and urgent claim,
And by your human face,
Kindle our sinking hearts to flame,
And as you teach the world your name
Let it become your place.**

**Jesus, with all your church I long
To see your kingdom come:
Show me your way of righting wrong
And turning sorrow into song
Until you bring me home.**

POSTLUDE “Praise to the Lord” Johann Gottfried Walther

“Give to Me, Lord, a Thankful Heart” Text and Music by Caryl Micklem. ©1975 by Alison Micklem. Reprinted with kind permission of Alison Micklem.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 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 Thursday, October 22. The following week she will be at the church on Thursday, October 27.

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 THIS 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.

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. 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_lx-SCO6dVPBbV0B?usp=sharing

NEW BOOK BY CONGREGATIONAL UCC AUTHOR: Congratulations to Caroline Tolbert whose new book, *Accessible Elections: How State Governments Can Help Americans Vote*, was published by Oxford University Press on October 1. The book is about mail-in voting, early voting, same-day voter registration laws, automatic voter registration, and quality election administration. The book looks at very promising results—from decades of experimentation in the American states—about how to update and modernize elections in the US.

Caroline will lead a Zoom adult education session, "Accessible Elections: How State Governments Can Help Americans Vote in 2020?" on Sunday, October 25 at 9:15 a.m. An invitation for this Zoom event will be sent out later this week.

WINTER CLOTHING DISTRIBUTION: The final day for the clothing distribution will be this coming Wednesday because they are running out of clothes. Help is needed from Monday through Wednesday this week. The sign-up for days / times will be done via Sign-Up Genius at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0B49A9AE2FA20-winter> *If you have question or want to help, please call Paula Forest at 319-541-2083.*

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.

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 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.