



Stewardship is Heart Work

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

WORSHIP FOR OCTOBER 25, 2020
TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
REFORMATION SUNDAY

“The Reformation led to a full embrace of the radical political implications of a humanity created in the image of God—each individual with God-given dignity and value. And as a consequence it led to political rights, to a new recognition of justice in the civic and political arena, and to a stress on grace as the fundamental word that God has spoken and on gratitude as the essential response for the one who has received grace.”

John Buchanan

PRELUDE “A Mighty Fortress” Gerhard Krapf

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

God formed us out of the earth,
breathing Spirit into the dust.

**Our minds open to the movement of the Spirit,
for God is not finished with us.
We are always being re-formed.
Let us worship the living God!**

HYMN “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

**A mighty fortress is our God,
a bulwark never failing;
our helper he, amid the flood
of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe
does seek to work us woe;
his craft and power are great,
and armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.**

**Did we in our own strength confide,
our striving would be losing,
were not the right One on our side,
the One of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth his name,
from age to age the same;
and he must win the battle.**

**And though this world, with devils filled,
should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God has willed
his truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim,
we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure,
for lo! his doom is sure;
one little word shall fell him.**

**That Word above all earthly powers
no thanks to them abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours
through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go,
this mortal life also;
the body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still;
his kingdom is forever!**

OPENING PRAYER

O God, we find ourselves unexpectedly called to live out our lives on this precipice of the future. We forget that when other generations affirmed that you are our dwelling place from age to age they did it from a precarious place, too. They did not know and we do not know all that will take place. In fear our minds and spirits freeze. Make us, body and soul, nimble to catch the footholds that will make us secure as we traverse the terrain that you offer. Let us find what is required and invent what is necessary as we go forward through this unmarked time and space before us. Stir us in imagination to grapple with all that needs reworking, all that needs repairing, and all that needs restoring. Help us recall all the times and ways you have kept faith with us and brought us through other perilous places, generation to generation. Protect us in our being and becoming and keep us secure in all that you would have us do. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Habakkuk 2:1-4

PSALM 46

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea;**
though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.

**The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.

**God is in the midst of the city;
It shall not be overthrown;
God shall help it at the break of day.**

The nations make much ado, and the realms are shaken;
God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.

**The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**

Come now and look upon the works of the Lord,
what awesome things God has done on earth.

**It is the Lord who makes war to cease in all the world,
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear,
and burns the shields with fire.**

“Be still, then, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations;
I will be exalted in the earth.”

**The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Romans 8:31-39

SERMON “A Very Present Help”

TIME OF GRATITUDE

ANTHEM “Thee, Lord, Would I Serve” Mark Bender
 Wen Chin Liu, Avery Nabholz, Josh Ramseyer, Colin Wilson

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

HYMN “God of Grace and God of Glory”

**God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your power;
crown your ancient church's story,
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.**

**Lo! the hosts of evil round us
scorn the Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.**

**Cure your children's warring madness;
bend our pride to your control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal.**

**Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
let the gift of your salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.**

POSTLUDE “A Festal Improvisation” Colin Mawby

On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther posted 95 Theses (propositions) on the door of the Wittenberg Castle Church as an invitation to debate the sale of indulgences for forgiveness. That

was one event in a centuries-long movement that eventually became the Protestant Reformation. Today we mark Reformation Sunday and pray for a church that is always open to reform and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY—NOVEMBER 1: Each year on the First Sunday in November, Congregational UCC observes “All Saints Sunday.” This is a time for us to remember and give thanks to God for the lives of those members of Congregational UCC who have died in the past year—and for all the saints. This year we will remember Dick MacMillan, Judy Doorenbos, and Dee Fate. Our worship service on this day is both solemn and joyful, befitting a congregation of people who live in the light of the resurrection. This will also be a Communion Sunday. Please join us next Sunday, November 1, for this special time of worship.

RETURN TO STANDARD TIME: Most of us can use a little extra sleep. Set your clock back an hour before bedtime next Saturday, October 31, get some rest, and join us for worship on Sunday, November 1 (All Saints Sunday) at 10:15 a.m.—CENTRAL STANDARD TIME.

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 Tuesday, October 27. The following week she will be at the church on Thursday, November 5.

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.

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.

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_1x-SCO6dVPBbV0B?usp=sharing

THE OBERMANN CENTER IS HOSTING AN OBERMANN CONVERSATION on October 28 at 7:00 pm that includes Congregational UCC member and UI professor of Religious Studies, Kristy Nabhan-Warren and Christopher-Rasheem McMillan. They'll be in conversation with local pastor and social activist David Borger-Germann around the topic of labor. This event is co-sponsored with the Iowa City Public Library, which is hosting the Zoom webinar. For a full event description and a Zoom registration link, go here: <https://obermann.uiowa.edu/programs/obermann-conversations/little-resurrections-laboring-find-wonder-our-work>

8TH ANNUAL IOWA SUMMIT ON JUSTICE & DISPARITIES: Local leaders, along with representatives from the Iowa City Police Department, will be attending the 8th Annual Iowa Summit on Justice and Disparities virtually on Thursday, Oct. 29, 2020. The conference begins at 8 a.m. and concludes at 4:30 p.m.

If you are interested in criminal justice reform, register today to learn more on this important topic, as state decision makers, national experts, and community advocates address minority disproportionality in the criminal justice system.

About the Summit:

Online this year due to COVID-19, the annual summit regularly hosts panels, workshops, and presentations that feature community leaders from across the state, national experts, and residents who are invested in criminal justice reform. Speakers include lawyers, State and Federal judges, non-profit leaders, and more. This year's summit topics include:

- How to eliminate racial profiling
- Protecting victim's rights
- Systemic criminal justice reform
- Re-examining cash bail bonds
- For a complete list of topics, visit iowajusticesummi.org.

Presented by the NAACP of Des Moines, and co-sponsored by the City of Iowa City, and Iowa City Police Department, we are proud to help make this year's summit possible. Registration for the summit is open to interested individuals and groups, [and can be done online](#).

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.

