



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

WORSHIP FOR NOVEMBER 14, 2021
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

“If authentic prayer is the action proper to hope, it is clear that Christian hope is no easy, naïve refusal to look reality in the face, no escape into a fantasy land. Faith is hard, love is hard, hope is very hard, and we can never sit back contentedly as if they were assured possessions.”

Patrick Henry

PRELUDE “Prelude in E Major, Op. 48, No. 5” Josef Renner

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the weariness and turmoil of our days

Come meet God who is our strength.

As we struggle with the challenges of our lives

Come greet God who is the mystery of our being.
As the light flickers within us
Draw near to God's light that illumines our lives.

HYMN 560 "We Plow the Fields and Scatter"

**We plow the fields and scatter
The good seed on the land,
But it is fed and watered
By God's almighty hand;
God sends the snow in winter,
The warmth to swell the grain,
The breezes and the sunshine,
And soft refreshing rain.**

**You only are the Maker
Of all things near and far;
You paint the wayside flower,
You light the evening star;
The winds and waves obey You,
By You the birds are fed;
Much more to us, Your children,
You give our daily bread.**

**We thank You, then, Creator,
For all things bright and good,
The seed time and the harvest,
Our life, our health, our food;
Accept the gifts we offer,
For all Your love imparts,
And what You most would welcome,
Our humble, thankful hearts.**

OPENING PRAYER

As the light goes down and the end of the day arrives early, help us, O God, to distinguish between the dark which is a gift of your seasons and the dimness that comes when we cannot see the end in sight. Help us to keep in our mind's eye the many times when we have embraced the darkness and how we have carried through.

Keep always before us that it is your desire that we survive and flourish. You make provision for us so we may go on. Help us to draw on those rich stores you provide for us each day—the beauty of the night and the planets that accompany it, the warmth of our homes with all the details of comfort and memory contained in them, the fellowship of our communities and the dearness of those near and far. Help us to locate in the deep core of our being that root which grounds us in you and wicks up through us your power, strength, and energy so we may continue to live our lives as you would have them be. Amen.

TIME OF GRATITUDE

ANTHEM "Keep Your Lamps!" arr. Lloyd Larson

TIME OF PRAYER

Prayers of the People

Silent Prayer

The Prayer of Our Savior

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Choral Response

SCRIPTURE LESSON Daniel 12:1-4

PSALM 16

Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you;

I have said to the Lord, "You are my Lord, my good above all other."

**All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land,
upon those who are noble among the people.**

But those who run after other gods
shall have their troubles multiplied.

**Their libations of blood I will not offer,
nor take the names of their gods upon my lips.**

O Lord, you are my portion and my cup;
it is you who uphold my lot.

**My boundaries enclose a pleasant land;
indeed, I have a goodly heritage.**

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel;
my heart teaches me, night after night.

**I have set the Lord always before me;
because you are at my right hand I shall not fall.**

My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;
my body also shall rest in hope.

**For you will not abandon me to the grave,
nor let your holy one see the pit.**

[Unison]

**You will show me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy,
and in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Mark 13:1-8, 32-37

SERMON "Days of Hope and Expectation"

HYMN 450 “O Day of Peace”
(You can view the words and music [here.](#))

**O day of peace that dimly shines
through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,
guide us to justice, truth, and love,
delivered from our selfish schemes.
May swords of hate fall from our hands,
our hearts from envy find release,
till by God’s grace our warring world
shall see Christ’s promised reign of peace.**

**Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb,
nor shall the fierce devour the small.
As beasts and cattle calmly graze,
a little child shall lead them all.
Then enemies shall learn to love,
all creatures find their true accord.
The hope of peace shall be fulfilled,
for all the earth shall know the Lord.**

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Postlude in F Major” Christian Cappelen

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Minister:	The Rev. Bill Lovin
Director of Children’s Programs:	The Rev. Ann Molsberry
Organist:	Bill Crouch
Choir Director	Chris Nakielski
Office Manager	Jenn Harden

WE'RE GLAD THAT YOU HAVE JOINED US FOR WORSHIP THIS MORNING. We are putting the safety of both the vaccinated and the unvaccinated in our congregation and the community first. Masks are required for all people in all parts of the building. We will keep social distance in the pews. The choir will sing, but there will be no congregational singing. There will be no coffee hour, although you are encouraged to talk with one another outside after worship.

WE ARE NOW LIVE STREAMING OUR WORSHIP SERVICES AT 10:15 ON SUNDAY MORNING. You can join us online in real time at <https://vimeo.com/event/1424751>. This streaming address will be the same each week.

RECORDINGS OF THE WORSHIP SERVICES are posted on Sunday afternoon 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.

FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP SERVICES—If you would like to contribute flowers for the worship services on upcoming Sundays please call the office to let Jenn know or sign up on the sheet in Rockwood Hall.



Want to give online? Scan the QR code for our giving app.

LOOK AHEAD TO ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

Like everything else, our Advent preparations and Christmas celebrations are expected to be different this year. We are still in the process of creating inspiring and joy-filled events. Here are some dates to keep in mind.

November 28—First Sunday in Advent; Lighting of the Advent Candles begins.

December 5—Second Sunday in Advent; Children's Pageant

December 12—Third Sunday in Advent; Special Music Sunday—*Gloria* by John Rutter

December 19—Fourth Sunday in Advent.

Christmas Eve is Friday, December 24.

Stewardship Is Heart Work: Pledge/estimate of giving cards for 2022 have been sent out. If you have not received one, please contact the church office. If you have received a card, please prayerfully fill it out and return it to the church by November 19. 2021 has been filled with many challenges and we have responded faithfully and with a generous compassion. We anticipate more challenges in 2022. Your deeply considered, prayerful support will help us to continue our Church's mission in downtown Iowa City and around the world. Thanks again for your generous giving.

We received \$992 for our Neighbors in Need (NIN) offering last Sunday. THANK YOU!
NIN is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of

justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the [Council for American Indian Ministry](#) (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. This year offering is focused on supporting organizations and projects that are serving homeless and immigrant neighbors or communities. You can still give if you would like. Please put "NIN" on your check or envelope.

GIVING UPDATES AVAILABLE: If you have any questions about your giving to the church or if you would like an update on your giving, please call the church office (337-4301) or email our Office Manager, Jenn Harden at uccicadmin@uccic.org.

A new Bible Study starts this Wednesday, November 17. We'll look at the scripture lessons—primarily from the Old Testament—that are used in the Christmas section of Handel's *Messiah*. The sessions will be held on Zoom at 7:00 p.m.—no parking worries! If you are interested or want more information, please talk with Bill Lovin.

JOIN THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAM THIS AFTERNOON, NOVEMBER 14, FROM 4-7 PM, 430 BROWN ST, FOR A GIFT SALE FUNDRAISER. You can choose from a wide selection of handmade jewelry, donated goods from Rotarians and local business owners. They will only allow 20 people into the sale at a time and masks are required to be worn at all times. Cash, credit card and check accepted.

YOUR GIFT CAN HELP THE OPEN HEARTLAND HOLIDAY CELEBRATION: On Sunday, December 12, Open Heartland will give Christmas presents and food to over 175 immigrant families living in five of the most disadvantaged mobile home communities in our county. If you would like to help provide gifts and monetary support, please contact Sarah Fletcher at sarah.fletch@icloud.com or 319-530-5619. You will be contacted by November 21 to pair you with a family and to give you additional details.

EACH YEAR, SHELTER HOUSE PARTICIPATES IN NATIONAL HUNGER & HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS WEEK (NHHAW) to raise awareness and to encourage others to take action on behalf of our neighbors who are facing housing and food insecurity. . Join Shelter House during NHHAW (November 15 – 19) to support our community's most vulnerable individuals and families experiencing homelessness and contribute to this important national social movement.

Their 2021 daily events and activities are highlighted below. They would be ever-so-grateful if you joined them. If you have any questions about NHHAW, reach out to T'Shailyn Harrington at tshailyn.harrington@shelterhouseowa.org.

[Learn more about NHHAW](#)

Monday, November 15th | 11am - 1pm: **Soup Luncheon & Sock Drive**
A community-wide event at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church (123 E Market Street, Iowa City).

Enjoy homemade soups, breads, and desserts. They will be accepting free-will donations and new socks for the winter emergency shelter.

Tuesday, November 16th | 6:30pm: **Film Screening: Sidewalk Stories**

Join Shelter House at FilmScene for a special screening of Sidewalk Stories: a beautiful, heartfelt, black and white silent film about an artist experiencing homelessness who finds a toddler in the wake of a back alley stabbing. Taking the child through the streets of New York City as they search for her mother, the pair meet an assortment of characters while developing a friendship.

PLEASE NOTE: this event will be full capacity with enhanced wellness protocols in place requiring either 1) a 72-hour (or less) negative COVID-19 test, or 2) documentation of a vaccine card for each individual 12 or older attending.

For more information and to purchase tickets, click the button below. See you at the movies!

[Purchase Tickets to Film Screening](#)

Wednesday, November 17th: **Foodies Fighting Homelessness**

It's another year of Foodies Fighting Homelessness! Purchase enough tickets for your entire family, or for a few friends, and enjoy a night of full bellies and great conversation together.

Meal tickets can be redeemed throughout the day, for both dine-in and carry-out. Delivery is not available.

[Purchase Tickets to Foodies](#)

CommUnity Crisis Services and Food Bank Top Ten Needed Donations: please take donations to the food bank at 1045 Highway 6 East, Iowa City. Financial donations can be made via the website www.builtbycommunity.org, or mailed to the office at 1121 S. Gilbert Court Iowa City, IA 52245

1. Financial donations
2. Hygiene products
3. Toilet paper
4. Canned meat
5. Baby Diapers and Wipes
6. Baby formula
7. Rice and pasta
8. Hearty Soups and Stews
9. Peanut butter
10. Laundry detergent