

CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
30 N. CLINTON ST.
IOWA CITY, IA 52245
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WORSHIP FOR NOVEMBER 15, 2020
TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

“The point is living expectantly and hopefully.... Living in hope does not mean immunity to the harsh realities of history. On the contrary, it means living confidently and expectantly, trusting that the Lord of history continues to come into life with compassion, redemption, and hope.”

John Buchanan

PRELUDE “Cantilena” Stanley Vann

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 “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.**

**Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;
Thy justice, like mountains, high soaring above
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small;
In all life Thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish; but naught changeth Thee.**

**Thou reignest in glory, Thou rulest in light,
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee!**

OPENING PRAYER

Our energy runs down, O God, and with it our endurance . We lose patience with each other and ourselves, we doubt we can keep going and we think we cannot meet the demands of the coming days.

As the light goes down and the end of the day arrives early help us 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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE LESSON Amos 5:18-24

PSALM 70

Be pleased, O God, to deliver me.

O Lord, make haste to help me!

Let those be put to shame and confusion who seek my life.

Let those be turned back and brought to dishonor who desire to hurt me.

Let those who say, "Aha, Aha!"

turn back because of their shame.

Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you.

Let those who love your salvation say evermore, "God is great!"

But I am poor and needy; hasten to me, O God!

You are my help and my deliverer;

O Lord, do not delay!

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 25:1-13

SERMON "Dwindling Oil, Renewing Hope"

TIME OF GRATITUDE

ANTHEM

"I Will Lift Mine Eyes"

Kevin Koepnick, Josh Ramseyer, Colin Wilson

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN "Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning"

1 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your
2 Dark - er mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er
3 Lo, the morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the
4 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your

lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps trimmed and burn -
mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er mid - night lies be - fore
morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the morn - ing soon is break -
lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps trimmed and burn -

- ing, for this work's al-most done.
us, for this work's al-most done. Chil-dren, don't grow wea-ry, chil-dren,
- ing, for this work's al-most done.
- ing, for this work's al-most done.

don't grow wea-ry, chil-dren, don't grow wea-ry, for this work's al-most done.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Fanfare”

June Nixon

“Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning” Tune: © 2003, Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-715458. All rights reserved.

Stewardship Is Heart Work: Pledge/estimate of giving cards for 2021 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 20. 2020 has been filled with unexpected trials and tribulations. We anticipate more challenges in 2021. Your deeply considered, prayerful support will help us to continue our Church's mission in downtown Iowa City. Thanks again for your generous giving.

Neighbors in Need (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.

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

ALTERNATIVE GIVING-2020

This year, of course, all our alternative giving opportunities will be online. We still have many traditional options: Heifer Project, Project Holiday, Church World Service, and Toys for Tots.

Heifer gifts. You can see the full catalog at <https://www.heifer.org/gift-catalog/index.html>.

Heifer cards can be personalized for your recipient by Ginny Clemons.

Top gifts:

Goat Full : \$120

Share: \$10

Sheep Full \$120

Share \$10

Heifer Full \$500

Share \$50

Water for life \$750

Flock of chicks \$20

Alpaca Full \$150

Share \$20

Gift of trees

Full \$60

Share \$10

Biogas stoves for a village

Full \$1000

Share \$50

Instructions: Please complete your Heifer orders by November 30!

1. Select Heifer gift from short lists on the church webpage or the bulletin
2. Send check to the church or pay via paypal donate button on the church website. Memo line on check or paypal page should indicate Heifer.
3. Fill out a form describing your order. If you are paying by paypal, email or mail the form. If you are paying by check, include the form with your check.

Mission Board will pick up the forms from the church office and deliver them to Ginny. Ginny will personalize the cards, and Mission will address and mail the cards or return them to you as you have indicated.

ORDER FORM for Heifer Project gifts

Your name _____ Phone number _____

email address _____

Description of order	Person to be honored (print)	Amount (see list or use catalog)
Example: gift of trees (full)	Jonah	\$60

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Total: _____

Use addition forms for additional orders

___ I would like to have the cards returned to me

___ I would like the Mission Board to address and mail the cards (add addresses below).

___ I have paid by paypal through the church webpage

___ I have sent a check to the church

Please provide addresses on this form for cards to be mailed by the Mission Board. Be sure to indicate which address goes with which giftcard.

Address for giftcard 1:

Address for giftcard 2

Project Holiday through CommUnity, holiday meals.

<https://builtbycommunity.org/project-holiday/>.

Church World Service

We have applied to set up a congregational webpage: www.cwsbestgift.org/virtual.

Members will order through the webpage, and we will get an accounting of totals donated. We will let you know as soon as this is completed.

Salvation Army: Here is the link for purchasing toys through Walmart for our local Salvation Army, and instructions from the site.

<https://www.salvationarmyusa.org/usn/walmart-angel-tree/?fbclid=IwAR0W4PI8HCd-bjbTuMTiHnabFtBSfKXdIGJjEjBrJJ5jFN0rUKLIVfdXxZ4>.

