

All Saints' Sunday



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

WORSHIP FOR NOVEMBER 1, 2020
TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
ALL SAINTS DAY

Today is a communion Sunday. Before joining the worship service, you are invited to get whatever you eat and whatever you drink. It can be bread and grape juice or wine or as simple as a cracker or rice cake and water for use in our worship.

“Fall accentuates the goodness of life and finds its truest meaning in the strength of winter and the breath of spring. Thank God for the fall.”

Howard Thurman

PRELUDE “Shall We Gather at the River?” Dale Wood

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

During times of crisis,
in moments of doubt,
during periods of isolation,
through seasons of uncertainty...

we place our trust in a loving God.

Let us open our hearts to God.

In communion with the saints,
in solidarity with the suffering,
and united with all people of good will,

we come before God in this time of remembrance and thanksgiving.

HYMN “By Gracious Powers”

**By gracious powers so wonderfully sheltered,
and confidently waiting, come what may,
we know that God is with us night and morning
and never fails to greet us each new day.**

**Yet is this heart by its old foe tormented,
still evil days bring burdens hard to bear;
O give our frightened souls the sure salvation
for which, O Lord, you taught us to prepare.**

**And when this cup you give is filled to brimming
with bitter suffering, hard to understand,
we take it thankfully and without trembling,
out of so good and so beloved a hand.**

**Yet when again in this same world you give us
the joy we had, the brightness of your sun,
we shall remember all the days we lived through,
and our whole life shall then be yours alone.**

OPENING PRAYER

The evening comes early and the temperature drops, O God. While the days still seem to blend together, we look and listen as autumn tells of your bounty and beauty, and of endings and harvest.

All that we have comes from you. We thank you for your love that unites us in sorrow and joy. Surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, we thank you for your care and compassion as boundless as the universe yet as close as falling tears. Be with us in our worship, work in us and through us for your purposes of peace; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Revelation 7:9-17

PSALM 34

At all times I will bless the Lord,
whose praise shall ever be in my mouth.

**I will glory in the Lord;
let the humble hear and rejoice.**

Proclaim with me the greatness of the Lord;
let us exalt the name of the Lord together.

**I sought the Lord, who answered me
and delivered me out of all my terror.**

Look upon the Lord and be radiant,
and let not your faces be ashamed.

**I called in my affliction and the Lord heard me
and saved me from all my troubles.**

The angel of the Lord encompasses the God-fearing,
and the Lord will deliver them.

**Taste and see that the Lord is good;
happy are they who trust in the Lord!**

Fear the Lord, you holy ones,
for those who are God-fearing lack nothing.

**The young lions lack and suffer hunger,
but those who seek the Lord lack nothing that is good.**

[Unison]

**The Lord ransoms the life of those chosen to serve,
and none will be punished who trust in the Lord.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 6:20-21

SERMON “Absence and Presence--In the Room, At the Table”

TIME OF GRATITUDE

ANTHEM “Saints Bound for Heaven” arr. Alice Parker and Robert Shaw

THE LORD’S SUPPER

INVITATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

THANKSGIVING FOR BREAD AND CUP

**We thank you, O Christ,
that scattered though we are, with different needs and hopes
you call us together at this meal and unite us as one body.**

**We thank you for this bread and cup set before us,
food and drink to nourish us in body and in spirit, signs of your life-giving love.
May they speak to us
of the everyday made holy,
of life made new,
of hope for your realm among us.**

We remember that on the night of his arrest...

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF BREAD AND CUP

HYMN "As We Gather at Your Table"

**As we gather at your Table,
as we listen to your Word,
help us know, O God, your presence;
let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story
till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet
how to make Love's victory known.**

**Turn our worship into witness
in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you,
bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion
to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image
in the world you died to save.**

**Gracious Spirit, help us summon
other guests to share that feast
where triumphant Love will welcome
those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy blind us
nor will pride our peace destroy,
as we join with saints and angels
to repeat the sounding joy.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Gracious God,
you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.
You have fed us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and renewed us for your service.
Number us among your saints, O God,
and join us with the faithful of every age.
Give us strength to serve you faithfully
until the promised day of resurrection,
when with the redeemed of all the ages
we will feast at your table in glory;
through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

HYMN “For All the Saints”

**For all the saints who from their labors rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
Thou, Lord, their Savior in the long, cold night;
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**O blest communion, fellowship divine,
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**And when the strife is fierce, the battle long,
Steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
And hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

“Holy God, We Praise Your Name”

Heinrich Fleischer

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ALL SAINTS SUNDAY— 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 morning we remember Dick MacMillan, Judy Doorenbos, Dee Fate, and Frank Snider.

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, November 5.** The following week she will be at the church on Tuesday, November 10.

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.

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

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](#).