



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

WORSHIP FOR NOVEMBER 21, 2021  
TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
THANKSGIVING SUNDAY

“The more experiences I’ve had, the more chances I’ve had to see the uniqueness of each person...as well as each tree, and plant, and shell, and cloud...the more I find myself delighting every day in the lavish gifts of God, whom I’ve come to believe is the greatest appreciator of all.”

Fred Rogers

PRELUDE “Now Thank We All Our God” Jeffrey Honore

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 100)

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship God with gladness;

come into God's presence with singing.

**Know that the Lord is God, who made us.**

**We are God's people.**

Enter the gates with thanksgiving, and God's courts with praise;

Give thanks to God and bless God's name.

**For the Lord is good;**

**God's steadfast love endures forever,**

**and God's faithfulness to all generations.**

HYMN 559 We Gather Together

**We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;**

**He chastens and hastens His will to make known;**

**The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing,**

**Sing praises to His name; He forgets not His own.**

**Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,**

**Ordaining, maintaining His kingdom divine;**

**So from the beginning the fight we were winning;**

**Thou, Lord, wast at our side; all glory be Thine!**

**We all do extol Thee, Thou leader triumphant,**

**And pray that Thou still our defender will be.**

**Let Thy congregation escape tribulation;**

**Thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!**

## OPENING PRAYER

**We come to give thanks today, O God. We realize all the good that surrounds us. We recognize the many gifts of life—food, light, water and air. We celebrate all that makes up our life—the joys of using of our minds, our hands, and our hearts. In whatever condition we find ourselves, we rejoice in this body which allows us to be part of the earth and lets us share our existence with others. We come before you in deep gratitude for all these things.**

**In this same moment, we are aware that suffering accompanies many among us and especially some of us this year. Some face existence alone or in pain, some bear the grief of absence and loss, some know fear and uncertainty because they struggle to find those basic gifts you intend for us all. In the midst of our thanks, may our prayers for their satisfaction and delivery well up before you. Amen.**

## TIME OF GRATITUDE

ANTHEM "For the Fruit of All Creation" Hal Hopson

## 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

Deuteronomy 8:7-18

## PSALM 65

You are to be praised, O God, in Zion;  
to you shall vows be performed in Jerusalem.

**To you that hear prayer shall all flesh come,  
because of their transgressions.**

Our sins are stronger than we are,  
but you will blot them out.

**Happy are they whom you choose  
and draw to your courts to dwell there!**

they will be satisfied by the beauty of your house,  
by the holiness of your temple.

**Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness,  
O God of our salvation,**

O Hope of all the ends of the earth  
and of the seas that are far away.

**You make fast the mountains by your power;  
they are girded about with might.**

You still the roaring of the seas,  
the roaring of their waves,  
and the clamor of the peoples.

**Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble  
at your marvelous signs;  
you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.**

You visit the earth and water it abundantly;  
you make it very plenteous; the river of God is full of water.

**You prepare the grain,  
for so you provide for the earth.**

You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;  
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.

**You crown the year with your goodness,  
and your paths overflow with plenty.**

May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,  
and the hills be clothed with joy.

**May the meadows cover themselves with flocks,  
and the valleys cloak themselves with grain;  
let them shout for joy and sing.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON      Luke 17:11-19

SERMON

HYMN 554      Let All Things Now Living  
**Let all things now living  
A song of thanksgiving  
To God our Creator triumphantly raise;  
Who fashioned and made us,  
Protected and stayed us,  
By guiding us on to the end of our days.  
God's banners are o'er us,  
Pure light goes before us,  
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night:  
Till shadows have vanished  
And darkness is banished,  
As forward we travel from light into Light.**

**By law God enforces.  
The stars in their courses,  
The sun in its orbit obediently shine;  
The hills and the mountains,  
The rivers and fountains,  
The depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.  
We, too, should be voicing  
Our love and rejoicing  
With glad adoration, a song let us raise:  
Till all things now living  
Unite in thanksgiving,  
To God in the highest, hosanna and praise.**

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE      “Now Thank We All Our God,” Op. 135a No. 18      Max Reger

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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. There will be no coffee hour, although you are encouraged to talk with one another outside after worship.

**THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON THURSDAY AND FRIDAY OF THIS WEEK** in celebration of Thanksgiving. Please have all announcements for next Sunday's bulletin in the office by Tuesday. Thank you.

**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.

### **ALTERNATIVE GIVING**

In anticipation of Christmas, the Mission Board has organized Alternative Giving opportunities beginning November 21. Tree tags for the Salvation Army Angel Tree will be available. Gifts for kids will need to be returned to the church by December 12.

Project Holiday tree tags/envelopes will also be available starting November 21. This is the CommUnity annual holiday food distribution. Donations will be mailed by the donor, and need to be received at CommUnity by December 12.

Mission Board members will take orders for Heifer Project gifts after church on November 28, December 5 and December 12. Payments by check will be received, and Ginny Clemmons will personalize gift cards that can be mailed by the purchaser. The catalog can be seen here: <https://www.heifer.org/gift-catalog/index.html>

## **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 16—Winter Solace Service—7:00 p.m.

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 as soon as possible. 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 over \$1000 for our Neighbors in Need (NIN) offering. 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](mailto:uccicadmin@uccic.org).

**A new Bible Study has begun.** We're looking 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! The next session will be on Wednesday, December 1. If you are interested or want more information, please talk with Bill Lovin.

**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](http://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