

CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
30 N. CLINTON ST.
IOWA CITY, IA 52245
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WORSHIP FOR NOVEMBER 22, 2020
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
THANKSGIVING SUNDAY

“Thanksgiving begins with hunger, not with blessings.”
John Wilson

PRELUDE “Now Thank We All Our God” Jeffrey Honore

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 “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

For 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 gift we offer
For what your love imparts
And what you most would welcome:
Our humble, thankful hearts.**

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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE LESSON Habakkuk 3:2, 17-19

PSALM 126

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
then were we like those who dream.

**Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy.**

Then they said among the nations,
"The Lord has done great things for them."

**The Lord has done great things for us,
and we are glad indeed.**

Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like the watercourses of the Negev.

**Those who sowed with tears
will reap with songs of joy.**

[Unison]

**Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON II Corinthians 1:8-10

SERMON “Thanksgiving in This New World”

TIME OF GRATITUDE

ANTHEM “All That I Am” William Grant Still and Verna Arvey
Virtual Choir

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

HYMN “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.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Now Thank We All Our God” David Cherwien

“Let All Things Now Living” Katherine K. Davis. Words and Music - ©1939, 1966 ECS
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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. 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. **If you would like, you can now make your pledge online by clicking on this link:**

<https://forms.gle/yx7K5buGsJybRzAP8> Thanks again for your generous giving.

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

NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, IS THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT. We will light the first Advent candle and begin our preparations for the celebration of Christmas. This will be a Communion Sunday. Sunday, December 6 will be the Choir Special Music Sunday.

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.

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

<https://www.salvationarmyusa.org/usn/walmart-angel-tree/?fbclid=IwAR0W4P18HCd-bjbTuMTiHnabFtBSfKXdIGJjEjBrJJ5jFN0rUKLIVfdXxZ4>.

How to Shop Online

1. Enter your zip code below to search for your local Salvation Army unit.
2. Add gifts you would like to purchase for children in your community to your Walmart shopping cart.
3. Choose delivery and Walmart will ship the items directly to your local Salvation Army.

If you prefer, you can also drop items off at a Walmart collection point which can be found in participating Walmart stores starting November 1, or you can hand deliver them to your local Salvation Army

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)
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Example: gift of trees (full)	Jonah	\$60
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- 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.

Project Holiday is CommUnity Food Bank's annual holiday meal distribution. Typically held the week before Christmas, **this distribution provides more than 1,500 Johnson County families with all the ingredients needed to make a traditional holiday dinner.**

In its 33rd year, the Project Holiday distribution will take place at CommUnity Food Bank's new location in Pepperwood Plaza and will also be available for delivery to those who face barriers to transportation.

Each \$25 donation will purchase a complete holiday meal for a local family in need.

You can donate here: <https://builtbycommunity.org/project-holiday/>.

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

If you would like to give a gift through Church World Service, you can now do so through the special Congregational UCC site connected to the CWS site. Please note that this site will be available from November 29 through December 31. To reach the website, please follow this link:

<https://fundraise.cwsglobal.org/uccic-best-gift>

If you missed the **CRC RELIGION FOR RACIAL JUSTICE** event, or if you would like to share it with others, you can find a recording on [YouTube](#) and on [Facebook](#).

And here is a [1-page document of some Next Steps](#). These suggested next steps are of course not exhaustive.

