



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

WORSHIP FOR FEBRUARY 28, 2021
SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

“A six-pointed star, a crescent moon, a lotus—the symbols of other religions suggest beauty and light. The symbol of Christianity is an instrument of death. It suggests, at the very least, hope.”
Frederick Buechner

PRELUDE “Adagio” William Boyce

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

In mystery and grandeur

we see the face of God.

In earthiness and the ordinary

we know the love of Christ.

In heights and depths and life and death

the Spirit of God is moving among us.

Let us worship God.

HYMN “Give to Me, Lord, a Thankful Heart”

**Give to me, Lord, a thankful heart
And a discerning mind;
Give, as I play the Christian’s part,
The strength to finish what I start
And act on what I find.**

**When, in the rush of days, my will
Is habit bound and slow,
Help me to keep in vision, still,
What love and power and peace can fill
A life that trusts in you.**

**By your divine and urgent claim,
And by your human face,
Kindle our sinking hearts to flame,
And as you teach the world your name
Let it become your place.**

**Jesus, with all your church I long
To see your kingdom come:
Show me your way of righting wrong
And turning sorrow into song
Until you bring me home.**

OPENING PRAYER

Merciful God, whose care never ceases, we come to you as we are. We are tired from trying to do more than we can manage. We are anxious about problems which go unresolved. We are worried about events beyond our control. We do not easily let go.

For mistakes we cannot redeem, for tasks left undone, for uncertain goals, we need your forgiveness and ask for your understanding. For recovery of strength and enthusiasm, we pray for your Spirit. For fullness of life, generous hearts, and contented souls, we pray to be followers of Christ Jesus. In your mercy, restore us and lead us. Amen.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE LESSON Jeremiah 15:15-21

PSALM 26:1-8

Give judgment for me, O Lord,
for I have lived with integrity;
I have trusted in the Lord and have not faltered.

**Test me, O Lord, and try me;
examine my heart and my mind.**

For your love is before my eyes;

I have walked faithfully with you.

**I have not sat with the worthless,
nor do I consort with the deceitful.**

I have hated the company of evildoers;

I will not sit down with the wicked.

**I will wash my hands in innocence, O Lord,
that I may go in procession round your altar,**

singing aloud a song of thanksgiving
and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

**Lord, I love the house in which you dwell
and the place where your glory abides.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Mark 8:31-37

SERMON “Setting Aside and Taking Up”

TIME OF GRATITUDE

ANTHEM "*O Salutaris Hostia*" Herbert Howells
Avery Nabholz, Wen Chin Liu, Colin Wilson, Josh Ramseyer
O saving Victim,
Who expands the door of heaven,
Hostile armies press,
Give strength; bear aid.
To the One and Triune Lord,
May there be everlasting glory;
who gives us life without end
in the homeland.
Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

HYMN “I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”
(The words and music can be found [here](#).)

**I’m gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I’m gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

**I’m gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I’m gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

**I’m gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I’m gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

**I’m gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I’m gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Voluntary in A Minor” William Boyce

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Minister:	The Rev. Bill Lovin
Director of Children’s Programs:	The Rev. Ann Molsberry
Organist:	Bill Crouch
Choir Director	Kristin Ramseyer

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.

During Lent Bill Lovin will be leading a five session series looking at chapters 13-17 of the Gospel of John. These chapters present John’s version of the meal that Jesus shared with his followers on the night of his betrayal and arrest. In this section of John’s Gospel, we hear Jesus’ words of encouragement for people entering an unknown future. We’ll gather by Zoom at 7:00 on Wednesday evenings, beginning on Wednesday, March 3, looking at one chapter of this book each week. If you are interested in being a part of this study, please let Bill know by calling him at the church (337-4301) or sending an email to him at uccicrev@uccic.org.

Looking for a Librarian

The Board of Christian Education is looking for a volunteer librarian for a few hours a week. The church library has become a more "casual" setting than it once was...but we still need someone to help look after our collection to keep it viable, up-to-date, and useful. The church library, as it is currently, serves as a resource center, lending library, and reading room. We no longer keep track of library cards or sign-outs. We need someone to record new purchases and subscriptions, repair and/or replace popular books, and re-shelve in-coming books and materials...a weekly task as most.

RACIAL JUSTICE–SOCIAL ACTION DISCUSSIONS: AN INVITATION

The Mission Board invites you to participate in any or all of five discussion groups to be held via Zoom during February, March, and April of this year.

We will come together with the hope of understanding and combating racism—within ourselves and in the world around us. Through the questions we ask and the answers we propose, we will seek specific projects and goals that can lift the burden of racism that our sisters and brothers of color—indeed, all of us—carry in our daily life.

Each session will highlight a different area for social action. Each will open with brief introductory remarks, and guided discussion will follow; we encourage *all* participants to voice their own thoughts! (If attendance warrants, Zoom will help us arrange smaller discussion groups.) The sessions are scheduled as shown below.

Registration instructions: please read carefully!

Registration will be handled through **Kyle Flippo, kyle-flippo@uiowa.edu**. Please email Kyle indicating the discussion(s) you'd like to join. Approximately a week before each session, registrants will receive a welcome letter with a Zoom link. Be sure to save space on your calendar for each session!

Health Care Mar. 9, Tuesday, 7:00–8:30

Immigration Mar. 25, Thursday, 7:00–8:30

Environmental Justice Apr. 27, Tuesday, 7:00–8:30

After you register, you'll also be offered a *few* pages of suggested reading for each session. After each discussion, you'll receive a list of proposed actions and activities.

We welcome you, and encourage you to pass our invitation on to others who may wish to join us. **If you have questions, please email Kyle Flippo, kyle-flippo@uiowa.edu.**

We need *you* for this project; please join us if you can. Few of us live without the benefits or harms of racial injustice. This is a chance for you to connect to the community and learn how you might help “to form a more perfect Union.”

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