



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

WORSHIP FOR FEBRUARY 7, 2021

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

Tuesday, **February 16, 7:00** is the UCC Racial Justice and Education Discussion. To register and get a zoom link, send a note to **kyle-flippo@uiowa.edu**. More information about the series is at the bottom of the bulletin.

“In our own small ways most of us have witnessed miracles of healing; sometimes they have been miracles of selflessness, when we have truly listened to someone else. Listening is one of the greatest of all healing instruments, not listening with self-consciousness, but with complete focus on whoever needs to unburden grief or sin or betrayal. And then, usually, we are exhausted and need to go for a quiet walk alone.”

Madeleine L’Engle

PRELUDE

“Cantabile”

Jacques Lemmen

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CALL TO WORSHIP

#### **Gather us in.**

Gather us in, the lost and the lonely, the broken and breaking, the tired and aching,  
who long for the nourishment found at your feast.

Gather us in, the done and the doubting, the wishing and wondering, t  
he puzzled and pondering, who long for the company found at your feast.

#### **Gather us in.**

HYMN “Dear Lord, Creator Good and Kind” (vs. 1-4)  
(The music and lyrics can be viewed [here.](#))

**Dear Lord, Creator good and kind,  
Forgive our foolish ways;  
Reclothe us in our rightful mind,  
In purer lives Thy service find,  
In deeper reverence, praise.**

**In simple trust like theirs who heard,  
Beside the Syrian sea,  
The gracious calling of the Lord,  
Let us, like them, without a word,  
Rise up and follow Thee.**

**O Sabbath rest by Galilee,  
O calm of hills above,  
Where Jesus knelt to share with Thee  
The silence of eternity,  
Interpreted by love!**

**Drop Thy still dews of quietness,  
Till all our strivings cease;  
Take from our souls the strain and stress,  
And let our ordered lives confess  
The beauty of Thy peace.**

### OPENING PRAYER

**O God, in mystery and silence you are present in our lives, bringing new life out of destruction, hope out of despair, growth out of difficulty. We thank you that you do not leave us alone but labor to make us whole. Help us to attend to the gentle guidance of your Spirit, that we may know the joy you give to your people. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON      Isaiah 40:27-31

PSALM 147

Hallelujah!

How good it is to sing praises to our God!  
how pleasant it is to honor the Lord with praise!

**The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem  
and gathers the exiles of Israel.**

The Lord heals the brokenhearted  
and binds up their wounds.

**The Lord counts the number of the stars  
and calls them all by their names.**

Great is our Lord and mighty in power,  
whose wisdom is beyond limit.

**The Lord lifts up the lowly,  
but casts the wicked to the ground.**

Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving;  
make music to our God upon the harp.

**God covers the heavens with clouds  
and prepares rain for the earth;**

God makes grass to grow upon the mountains  
and green plants to serve humankind.

**God provides food for flocks and herds  
and for the young ravens when they cry.**

The Lord is not impressed by the might of a horse  
and has no pleasure in the strength of a man;

**but the Lord has pleasure in the God-fearing,  
in those who await God's gracious favor.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON      Mark 1:29-39

SERMON                  “Lifted into Community”

TIME OF GRATITUDE

ANTHEM      “Sing to God”

Avery Nabholz, Wen Chin Liu, Colin Wilson, Josh Ramseyer

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        "We Come as Guests Invited"  
(The music and lyrics can be viewed [here.](#))

**We come as guests invited  
When Jesus bids us dine,  
His friends on earth united  
To share the bread and wine;  
The bread of life is broken,  
The wine is freely poured  
For us, in solemn token  
Of Christ our dying Lord.**

**We eat and drink, receiving  
From Christ the grace we need,  
And in our hearts believing  
On Him by faith we feed;  
With wonder and thanksgiving  
For love that knows no end,  
We find in Jesus living  
Our ever-present Friend.**

**One bread is ours for sharing,  
One single fruitful vine,  
Our fellowship declaring  
Renewed in bread and wine:  
Renewed, sustained, and given  
By token, sign, and word,  
The pledge and seal of heaven,  
The love of Christ our Lord.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**O God, through this bread and cup you have made us one with you and with each other. May the unity we find at this table be a gift that we carry out into your suffering and divided world. Help us find strength in knowing that you, the God of peace, will always be with us. Amen.**

HYMN           “Jesus Calls Us”  
(The music and lyrics can be viewed [here](#).)

**Jesus calls us: o'er the tumult  
of our life's wild, restless sea;  
day by day his sweet voice soundeth  
saying, "Christian, follow me."**

**Jesus calls us from the worship  
of the vain world's golden store,  
from each idol that would keep us,  
saying, "Christian, love me more."**

**In our joys and in our sorrows,  
days of toil and hours of ease,  
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,  
"Christian, love me more than these."**

**Jesus calls us: by thy mercies,  
Savior, may we hear thy call,  
give our hearts to thy obedience,  
serve and love thee best of all.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE           Sortie (C Major) - Jacques Lemmens

Call to Worship adapted from Marty Haugen Words - ©1982 GIA Publications, Inc. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-715458. All rights reserved.

“We Come As Guests Invited” - Timothy Dudley-Smith, James Walsh. Words - ©1984 Oxford University Press. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-715458. All rights reserved.

Prayer after Communion from Fourth Presbyterian Church, Chicago.

Christ Healing Peter's Mother-in-Law, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56407> [retrieved February 5, 2021]. Original source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Meister\\_des\\_Hitda-Evangeliars\\_002.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Meister_des_Hitda-Evangeliars_002.jpg).

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.

**LENT BEGINS ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17.** We will have a "live" Ash Wednesday worship service on Zoom starting at 7:00 p.m. Please plan now to be a part of this as we begin preparing for the celebration of Easter. The Zoom invitation will be sent out in February.

### **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](mailto: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!

Education	Feb. 16, Tuesday, 7:00–8:30
Affordable Housing	Feb. 25, Thursday, 7:00–8:30
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](mailto: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.”

**UI Lecture Committee announces the Cassandra S. Foens M.D. 2021 Lecture** to be held on Tuesday Feb 16 at 7:00 pm. The title will be: "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks": A Discussion on Race and Medical Ethics

Henrietta Lacks was a young Black woman who was treated at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in the early 1950's for an aggressive case of cancer. At the time of surgery, a Hopkins physician/scientist used cells from her tumor to create an immortalized cell line (designated as HeLa cells) which has been widely used in research over the years. This use of her tissue was done without her consent. The case received wide attention in recent years due to the publication of the book "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks", written by Rebecca Skloot.

The lecture committee has invited two members of the Lacks family to come and serve as a panel. Congregational UCC member, Dr. Andy Bertolatus, will serve as moderator. This will be a virtual lecture - it will be livestreamed at <https://lectures.uiowa.edu/live/>. It will also be recorded and made available after the livestream.

**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](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1UcrZ4ya9xFir39cG_1x-SCO6dVPBbV0B?usp=sharing)