



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

WORSHIP FOR MARCH 21, 2021
The Fifth Sunday of Lent

“Though I do not believe that a plant will spring up where no seed has been, I have great faith in a seed. Convince me that you have a seed there, and I am prepared to expect wonders.”
Henry David Thoreau

Thursday, **March 25, 7:00** is the UCC Racial Justice and Immigration 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.

PRELUDE “Adagio” John Bennett

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Here we let go
of that which we hold on to
that does not bring life

**Here we let go
of the vanities of the world
and find the vulnerability of the cross**

Here we let go
of the wealth of the world
and trust the way of love

**Here we let go
of that which we hold on to
that does not bring life and
let those things that bring life
take hold in us.**

Let us worship God.

HYMN “I’m So Glad Troubles Don’t Last Always”

**I’m so glad troubles don't last always.
I’m so glad troubles don't last always.
I’m so glad troubles don't last always.**

[Refrain:]

Oh, my Lord, oh, my Lord, what shall I do?

**Make more room, Lord in my heart for you.
Make more room, Lord in my heart for you.
Make more room, Lord in my heart for you. [Refrain]**

OPENING PRAYER

Holy and ever-living God, by your power we are created and by your love we are redeemed. Open our ears to hear your voice and follow your call; open our hearts that true justice and wisdom may abound; and open our hands that peace might prevail on earth. In Christ, you give us a friend and a guide through the shadow of death who leads us into light that we may fear no evil. Strengthen us by your Spirit, that we may give ourselves to your service and live this day in love toward one another and toward you; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Jeremiah 31:31-34

PSALM 51:1-4, 7-8, 10-12

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

**Wash me through and through from my wickedness
and cleanse me from my sin.**

For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

**Against you only have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight.**

And so you are justified when you speak
and upright in your judgment.

**Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure;
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.**

Make me hear of joy and gladness,
that the body you have broken may rejoice.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

Cast me not away from your presence
and take not your holy Spirit from me.

**Give me the joy of your saving help again
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON John 12:20-33

SERMON “Seeing Jesus, Following Jesus”

TIME OF GRATITUDE

ANTHEM “Thy Will Be Done” Craig Courtney
Avery Nabholz, Wen Chin Liu, Colin Wilson, Josh Ramseyer

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

HYMN “Be Thou My Vision”

**Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Nought be all else to me , save that Thou art—
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.**

**Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
Great God of heave, my treasure Thou art.**

**Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Toccatà (E Minor)” Johann Pachelbel

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

Call to Worship—alt. from Church of Scotland, Weekly Worship, March 21, 2021. Used with permission.

Opening Prayer—alt. from *A New Zealand Prayer Book*.

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.

PALMS FOR PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 28: Would you and your household like to have palms for Palm Sunday? We have ordered palms and the Deacons will be coordinating contactless delivery to members and friends on the day before Palm Sunday. If you would like palms, please send Bill an email at uccirev@uccic.org or call the church office at 337-4301.

March is Shelter House Book Sale month! After last year's heartbreaking cancellation, Shelter House is thrilled to have found a way to have the 2021 Book Sale! While they can't open up for browsing, their Book Sale Committee and committed volunteers have been sorting and stacking books into bundles for you to buy and support Shelter House's work. They will be selling the bundles by book type (think novel bundles, poetry bundles, nature bundles and more), and the first set of bundles will go on sale this week! Shelter House is thrilled with the quality of books they have to sell this year, and they have really enjoyed creating bundles of books that should offer something to appeal to everyone. Quantities are limited, so don't miss out. You can find more information [here](#).

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!

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.”

Music and Social Justice: The Pacifica String Quartet and clarinetist Anthony McGill will be in virtual residence the week of March 29-April 2, 2021 as part of their residency with both Hancher and the UI String Quartet Residency Program (the program directed by Congregational UCC member, Associate Professor Beth Oakes.) Anthony McGill will be having a conversation with Micah Ariel James from Hancher on Thursday April 1, at 7 pm CDT titled *Music and Social Justice*. If you want to attend, please use the link below to register for this free webinar.

<https://uiowa.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUvfu2uqjosGdOE09mwaJZNgfoml4VQoPcG>

The Pacifica and Mr. McGill will also be presenting a virtual concert through Hancher Auditorium. Pacifica just won a Grammy and Anthony McGill is an absolutely extraordinary clarinetist. The concert is Tuesday, March 30, at 7:30 pm and the cost to attend is only \$5 per ticket. You can enjoy this from the comforts of your own living room. Here's the link:

<https://hancher.uiowa.edu/2020-21/pacifica-quartet-and-anthony-mcgill-clarinet>

The Consultation of Religious Congregations continues to look for a new coordinator for the Johnson County CROP Hunger Walk. **Without a coordinator in place in a timely manner, this event will not be happening again in 2021.**

Below is a concise overview of our community's CROP Walk, including information about the coordinator and team responsibilities. Please review this as you prayerfully consider stepping forward to fill these key roles.

CROP Walk Coordinator and Team Responsibilities

The coordinator and team are responsible for:

1. Setting the date.
2. Setting a date and location for the rally. This is usually about 6 weeks prior to the walk. reps from the various churches can pick up their collection envelopes (tho CWS would now prefer that donations be made online) There are also brochures, posters etc to help advertise the CROP Walk. Sunday School materials can also be ordered. I did a project with our SS kids each year to get them excited about CROP We have had the rally at two locations to make it easier for team leaders. The supplies are all available online and are no cost. I have lots left form this year.

3. Apply for a walk permit from the city. This too can be done online. They require a map of the walk route. I have a copy. The walk has begun at the building where Free Lunch is served and ends up there as well 911 Gilbert Court. They have been very generous in allowing us to be inside before and after the walk if the weather is not good.

4. Apply for insurance. This also is done online and is provided by CWS.

CROP has a new theme every 1-2 years, but basically, we are walking to help stop hunger. 25% of money raised goes directly to the Comm Unity Food Bank in Iowa City.

For further information and to volunteer please contact Barb Lang at: bj60lange@q.com or 319-351-3762