



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

WORSHIP FOR MARCH 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, **March 9, 7:00** is the UCC Racial Justice and Health Care 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.

“A God who bleeds with our wounds is a God of compassion. At that point of contact between God’s Spirit and ours, the Spirit of compassion passes through our spirit. We open our hearts, we love, we forgive. We need inspiration for our hearts as much as for our work. Inspiration heightens our compassion the way that it heightens our vision.”

Joanna Laufer & Kenneth S. Lewis

PRELUDE “Largo” William Walond

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 145)

God is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**God is good to all,
and God's compassion is over all that God has made.**

Let all God's works give thanks
and let all the people worship God.

**For God upholds the falling,
God hears their cry and saves them.**

HYMN "O My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer"

**O my soul, bless your Redeemer;
all within me bless God's name;
bless the Savior, and forget not
all God's mercies to proclaim.**

**Far as east from west is distant,
God has put away our sin;
like the pity of a parent
has the Lord's compassion been.**

**As it was without beginning,
so it lasts without an end;
to their children's children ever
shall God's righteousness extend.**

**Bless your Maker, all you creatures,
ever under God's control,
all throughout God's vast dominion;
bless the Lord of all, my soul!**

OPENING PRAYER

Living God, we seek your presence now.

Our minds cannot understand you, yet our hearts rest in your love and compassion.

Our faith cannot grasp you, yet in you we live and move and have our being.

**Our way ahead into this week is hidden from us, but we trust that we go through these days
kept in your gracious care.**

Renew our vision of the goodness in which our day-to-day lives are lived.

Open our eyes to see your presence in the simple glories of everyday things.

Strengthen our relationships with other people.

**Help us so to see where we went wrong in the past, that we shall be able to take our
bearings afresh for the way ahead.**

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 49:8-18

PSALM 145:1-9

I will exalt you, O God my Sovereign,
and bless your name forever and ever.

**Every day will I bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.**

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;
there is no end to your greatness.

**One generation shall praise your works to another
and shall declare your power.**

I will ponder the glorious splendor of your majesty
and all your marvelous works.

**They shall speak of the might of your wondrous acts,
and I will tell of your greatness.**

They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;
they shall sing of your righteous deeds.

**The Lord is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and of great kindness.**

[Unison]

**O Lord, you are loving to everyone,
and your compassion is over all your works.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 9:35-10:1, 5a

SERMON "Living into Compassion"

TIME OF GRATITUDE

ANTHEM "Here, O My Lord" Eleanor Daley
 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 “Let Us Break Bread Together”

**Let us break bread together on our knees; (on our knees;)
Let us break bread together on our knees. (on our knees.)
When I fall on my knees,
With my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me.)**

**Let us drink wine together on our knees; (on our knees;)
Let us drink wine together on our knees. (on our knees.)
When I fall on my knees,
With my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me.)**

**Let us praise God together on our knees; (on our knees;)
Let us praise God together on our knees. (on our knees.)
When I fall on my knees,
With my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me.)**

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 “What Wondrous Love Is This”

**What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, That caused the Lord of bliss,
To bear the heavy cross,
For my soul, for my soul,
To bear the heavy cross for my soul.**

**To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing!
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing!
To God and to the Lamb, Who is the great "I AM, "**

**While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing!
While millions join the theme, I will sing.**

**And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on!
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on,
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
And through eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And through eternity, I'll sing on.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Prelude & Fughetta in A Minor” - Johann Pachelbel

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.

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!

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.”

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 in the days before Palm Sunday. If you would like palms, please call the church office (337-4301) or send Bill and email at uccicrev@uccic.org.

CONGREGATIONAL UCC MEMBER AND PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, CAROLINE TOLBERT WILL BE SPEAKING as part of “Renewing a Human Rights Agenda: Defending Democracy in the U.S.-The Role of Journalism and Social Media,” Wednesday, March 10, 2021, 12:00pm, UI Center for Human Rights.

This panel discussion will examine the current impact of misinformation and disinformation on democratic process in the U.S. context. Panelists will provide perspectives on the relationship between journalism and democratic governance, the media environment in the U.S. and its implications for "governing", digital citizenship, and efforts to establish ethical protocols to curtail mis and dis information in the social media world. The panel will critically examine and develop conclusions from Freedom House's recent report on the state of democracy in the U.S. as an introduction to these concerns.

Join the event at: <https://uiowa.zoom.us/j/94839769875>. No need to register in advance. More information about this Panel and other presentations in the “Renewing the Human Rights Agenda series can be found [here](#).

The Beloved Community Initiative presents **CONGREGATIONAL UCC MEMBER AND PROFESSOR AND DIRECTOR OF THE SCHOOL OF PLANNING AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS, CHUCK CONNERLY, SPEAKING ON “WHY IS IOWA SO WHITE?”** Monday, March 15, 2021, 7:00 PM. You can register for this Zoom event [here](#).

It is not uncommon for people who live in Iowa to mention that they grew up knowing very few people of color. As we are often reminded around caucus time, Iowa remains the 6th whitest state in the nation. How and why did that happen?

Dr. Charles Connerly will walk us through Iowa's history—from the Indigenous nations who resided here until the land was taken from them to the establishment of “black codes” that restricted who could move here. He will highlight the ways that Iowa has at times welcomed and also excluded different groups of color. We'll look at some of the milestone civil rights decisions in Iowa as well as some of the decisions and events that serve more as millstones, weighing us down and holding us back from becoming a place where every Iowan can thrive.

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