



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

WORSHIP FOR MAY 2, 2021

“There is only one gift, to bear fruit, and any branch can do that if it remains with Jesus.”
Gail O’Day

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.

PRELUDE “Lento” Cesar Franck

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

CALL TO WORSHIP

All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
Delight in God whose praise you tell,
whose presence calls you to rejoice.

**Proclaim again that God is good,
whose mercy is forever sure,
Whose truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.**

HYMN “For the Beauty of the Earth”

**For the beauty of the earth
For the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the wonder of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flower
Sun and moon and stars of light,
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the joy of ear and eye,
For the heart and mind’s delight,
For the mystic harmony
Linking sense to sound and sight,
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above
For all gentle thoughts and mild,
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For each perfect gift of Thine
Unto us so freely given,
Graces human and divine
Flowers of earth and buds of heaven,
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.**

OPENING PRAYER

The earth around us here blossoms with the spring and everywhere the people too would like to bloom again, O God. Parts of ourselves and of our lives have been cut back in unexpected ways. Help us to sort out what is loss and what is best left trimmed away so we may begin to grown again.

Reside with us still as you have all these long days. Extend our connections to one another like vines trailing along the ground but do not leave us there. Raise us up, like the gardener that you are, on the arms of branches as you tend your vines. Let us bear good fruit and stand, a presence to our world. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 27:2-6

PSALM 80:2-5, 7-11, 14, 17-19

Restore us, O God of hosts;

show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

**O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?**

You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

**Restore us, O God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

You have brought a vine out of Egypt;
you cast out the nations and planted it.

**You prepared the ground for it;
it took root and filled the land.**

The mountains were covered by its shadow
and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.

**You stretched out its tendrils to the sea
and its branches to the river.**

Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven;
behold and tend this vine;

preserve what your right hand has planted.

**Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.

**Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON John 15:1-11

SERMON “Abiding in the Vine”

TIME OF GRATITUDE

ANTHEM “Give Me Jesus “

Avery Nabholz, Wen Chin Liu, Colin Wilson, Kevin Koepnick

THE LORD’S SUPPER

INVITATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

HYMN “Like the Murmur of the Dove’s Song” (vs. 2-3)

**To the members of Christ’s body,
to the branches of the Vine,
to the church in faith assembled,
to our midst as gift and sign:
come, Holy Spirit, come.**

**With the healing of division,
with the ceaseless voice of prayer,
with the pow’r to love and witness,
with the peace beyond compare:
come, Holy Spirit, come.**

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Thank you, O God, for connecting us one to another in this meal. Let us carry the sense of
this along with us as we live out our lives this week. Let us be mindful that we abide in one
another as we abide in you. Amen.**

HYMN “We Are Your People”

**We are your people: Lord, by Your grace,
You dare to make us Christ to our neighbors
of every culture and place.**

**Glad of tradition, help us to see
In all life’s changing where You are leading,
Where our best efforts should be.**

**Joined in community, treasured and fed,
may we discover gifts in each other,
sharing the cup and the bread.**

**Lord, as we minister in different ways,
May all we're doing show that you're living,
meeting Your love with our praise.**

**Spirit, unite us, make us, by grace,
willing and ready, Christ's living body,
loving the whole human race.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Sortie” (Allegro moderato) Jacques Lemmens

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

Call to Worship—William Kethe, 1561, alt. Thomas Troeger, 1992. From *The New Century Hymnal*. Copyright ©1995 The Pilgrim Press. Permission is granted for this one-time use.

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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.

WITH SADNESS AND IN THE HOPE OF THE RESURRECTION, we announce the death of David Carew on April 26. Because of the pandemic, no public service is being planned. We also announce the death of Mary Heininger on April 27. Messages to the Heininger family can be sent to Marsha Heininger Ramey, 18131 Sunny Top Ct., Wildwood MO 63038. Mary’s family asks that memorial gifts be sent to the Congregational UCC in Iowa City, adding, “She always considered the Iowa City years and people there the highlight of her life.”

REOPENING SURVEY: Reopening the church building and returning to in-person worship is still several months away. We do, however, have a Reopening Committee that has been meeting to consider all the concerns and logistics that are involved in this. They have prepared a brief survey in order to get your thoughts and to involve everyone in this effort. The survey is

anonymous. Please take a few minutes to fill it out and return it—all online. And note that this is not a group survey. We ask that each church member in your family fill one out. You can find the survey [here](#).

As we did a year ago, the **Mission Board is inviting church members to donate some or all of their COVID-19 Relief Checks** (stimulus checks) to local agencies which can get this money to individuals with immediate needs, some of whom don't qualify for relief checks. Many in our congregation will need to keep their relief checks just to make ends meet through the continuing crisis, but many in our congregation are still receiving their regular income and actually may have fewer expenses than usual. You can read the Mission Board's letter that includes an annotated list of agencies [here](#).

SUPPLY NEEDS AT COMMUNITY: Currently in need of **baby items** (diapers & wipes). Larger sizes of diapers tend to be more popular among our clients. Please feel free to drop off any donations of these items to the Pepperwood food bank location. CommUnity is also in need of containers to be used for repackaging dog food. A good example of containers that work well are empty Folger's coffee containers. Lastly, CommUnity is in need of nonperishable, easy to open, microwavable food items. Some good examples may include:

- pop top canned goods
- microwavable pasta cups
- microwavable soups
- microwavable rice
- etc.