



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

WORSHIP FOR MAY 9, 2021
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

“The love that structures the inner life of God gives us a sense of the proper pattern for Christian love. Far from a mere feeling of euphoria, it is a disciplined habit of care and concern that, like all the virtues, can be perfected only over a lifetime.”

David Cunningham

PRELUDE “Prelude in F Major,” Op. 48 No. 8 Josef Renner

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Psalmist says: "God makes all things new."

And so, we come today to say:

"Yes, make all things new."

We long to be comforted.

We long for words to heal.

We long for something new to open a way.

And so, we come today and say:

"Yes, make all things new."

HYMN "O Sing to the Lord"

O sing to the Lord, O sing God a new song,

O sing to the Lord, O sing God a new song,

O sing to the Lord, O sing God a new song.

O sing to our God, O sing to our God.

*Cantai ao Senhor um cântico novo,
Cantai ao Senhor um cântico novo,
Cantai ao Senhor um cântico novo,,
cantai ao Sehnor, cantai ao Senhor!*

By marvelous power our God has done wonders.

By marvelous power our God has done wonders.

By marvelous power our God has done wonders.

O sing to our God, O sing to our God.

*Porque ele fez, ele faz maravilhas
Porque ele fez, ele faz maravilhas,
Porque ele fez, ele faz maravilhas
cantai ao Sehnor, cantai ao Senhor!*

So dance for our God and blow all the trumpets.

So dance for our God and blow all the trumpets.

So dance for our God and blow all the trumpets,

and sing to our God, and sing to our God.

*Cantai ao Senhor, bendizei o seu nome,
Cantai ao Senhor, bendizei o seu nome,,
Cantai ao Senhor, bendizei o seu nome,
cantai ao Sehnor, cantai ao Senhor!*

OPENING PRAYER

Lord, we are gathered here today as one body, because you chose to call us your friends. We come from all walks of life. We have had our share of good days and bad days. May the love we experience today in worship restore us, revive us, refresh us. God, use our broken selves as tools of hope and love on this day. Lord, we love you. Thank you for loving us and calling us your friends. It's in your name, we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 66:12-14

PSALM 98

Sing to the Lord a new song,
for the Lord has done marvelous things.

**The right hand and the holy arm of the Lord
have secured the victory.**

The Lord has made known this victory
and has openly showed righteousness in the sight of the nations.

**The Lord remembers mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel,
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.**

Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

**Sing to the Lord with the harp,
with the harp and the voice of song.**

With trumpets and the sound of the horn
shout with joy before the Sovereign, the Lord.

**Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it,
the lands and those who dwell therein.**

Let the rivers clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord,
who is coming to judge the earth.

**In righteousness shall the Lord judge the world
and the peoples with equity.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON John 15:9-17

SERMON “Flourishing in This Time”

TIME OF GRATITUDE

ANTHEM “Let Us Love in Deed and Truth” Larry King
Avery Nabholz, Wen Chin Liu, Colin Wilson, Josh Ramseyer

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

HYMN “O Christian, Love”
(The words and music can be found together [here.](#))

**O Christian, love your sister and your brother!
Where goodwill dwells, the peace of God is there;
to worship rightly and to love each other,
each smile a hymn, each kindly deed a prayer.**

**Follow with reverent steps the great example
of Christ whose holy work was doing good:
so shall the wide earth seem a hallowed temple,
each loving life a psalm of gratitude.**

**Then shall all shackles fall: the stormy clangor
of wild war music o'er the earth shall cease;
love shall tread out the baleful fire of anger,
and in its ashes plant the tree of peace.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Maestoso” Alan Ridout

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

Photograph: “Love Tulips” by Rick Allen. Used with permission of the photographer.

Call to Worship—Prof. Dr. Heinrich Bedford-Strohm, Presiding Bishop of the Lutheran Church of Bavaria and Chairman of the Council of the Evangelical Church in Germany. Adapted from *Voices of Lament, Hope, and Courage A Week of Prayer in the Time of the COVID-19 Pandemic*, Copyright © 2021 WCC Publications. Used with permission.

Opening Prayer—Stephon Carlisle Void. Adapted from *Easter Liturgical Resources from Africana Writers*, edited by Safiya Fosua, 2020. Used with permission.

“O Sing to the Lord/ Cantai ao Senhor”—Brazilian (Portuguese) folk hymn based on Psalm 98; English translation Gerhard M. Cartford. Music: Brazilian folk hymn, arr. [Joel Navarro](#)
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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.

THE STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ. We will receive this offering on Pentecost Sunday, May 23.

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.