



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

WORSHIP FOR JUNE 13, 2021
THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Tell me, what is it you plan to do
With your one wild and precious life?
Mary Oliver

PRELUDE “Andante” John Stainer

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalms 148 & 149)
Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise the Lord in the heights.

**Praise the Lord, sun and moon;
praise the Lord, all you shining stars.**

Praise the Lord from the earth,
young men and women, old and young together.

**Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing praise to God in the congregation of the faithful.**

HYMN

“O That I Had a Thousand Voices”

**O that I had a thousand voices
To praise my God with thousand tongues!
My heart, which in the Lord rejoices,
Would then proclaim in grateful songs
To all, wherever I might be,
What great things God has done for me.**

**O all you powers that God implanted,
Arise, keep silence now no more;
Put forth the strength that God has granted!
Your noblest work is to adore.
O soul and body, join to raise
With heartfelt joy our Maker's praise.**

**You forest leaves so green and tender
That dance for joy in summer air,
You meadow grasses, bright and slender,
You flowers so fragrant and so fair,
You live to show God's praise alone.
Join me to make God's glory known.**

**All creatures that have breath and motion,
That throng the earth, the sea, the sky,
Come, share with me my heart's devotion,
Help me to sing God's praises high.
My utmost powers can never quite
Declare the wonders of God's might.**

OPENING PRAYER

We ask you today, O God, to be with the young. We pray for those who venture out now into a new world. Be with those who have bold dreams and with those who hold dreams postponed or denied. Give them the comfort of your presence and the gentle energy of your Spirit. If they are discouraged, disheartened, or disappointed by what they may encounter on their way, let them see their lives set within your larger life and send them faith to allow larger things to grow from the smallest seeds.

In these uncertain times, steady us all. Help us to locate the ground of our being in you. Help us to plant and cultivate those seeds of new growth that will blossom into an abundance of life for all. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

SOLO "See How the Galaxies Are Always There"
 Kevin Koepnick

See how the galaxies are always there,
Made by the One whose glories they declare,
Signs of a God with might and care to spare:
Shine like those stars!

So we are made to occupy a place
Within a firmament of time and space,
Each one enlightened with a special grace
To shine like stars.

Here by our faith and hope and love we shine,
Revealing by our deeds a pow'r divine,
One almost hears God saying, "You are mine,
You shine like stars!"

There we are set to occupy the height,
To glow the brightest in the darkest night,
That many still may know the world's true Light,
Shine, shine like stars!

SCRIPTURE LESSON I Timothy 6:17-19

PSALM 20

May the Lord answer you in the day of trouble,
the name of the God of Jacob defend you.

**From God's holy place may you receive help;
may God strengthen you out of Zion.**

May God remember all your offerings
and accept your burnt sacrifice;

**grant you your heart's desire
and prosper all your plans.**

We will shout for joy at your victory
and triumph in the name of our God;
may the Lord grant all your requests.

**Now I know that the Lord gives victory to the anointed one;
out of God's holy heaven will come an answer;
the right hand of the Lord works victorious strength.**

Some put their trust in chariots and some in horses,
but we will call upon the name of the Lord our God.

**They collapse and fall down,
but we will arise and stand upright.**

[Unison]

**O Lord, give victory to the king
and answer us when we call.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Mark 4:26-32

SERMON “Take Hold of Life”

A TIME OF GRATITUDE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

HYMN “God of Change and Glory”

(You can view and download a copy of the words and music of this hymn [here](#).)

**God of change and glory, God of time and space,
When we fear the future, give to us your grace.
In the midst of changing ways give us still the grace to praise.**

Refrain:

**Many gifts, one Spirit, one love known in many ways.
In our difference is blessing, from diversity we praise
One Giver, one Lord, one Spirit, one Word
Known in many ways, hallowing our days.
For the Giver, for the gifts, praise, praise, praise!**

**God of many colors, God of many signs,
You have made us different, blessing many kinds.
As the old ways disappear, let your love cast out our fear.**

**Freshness of the morning, newness of each night,
You are still creating endless love and light.
This we see, as shadows part, many gifts from one great heart.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Fugue in A Minor” L. Niedermeyer

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

Thanks to Kevin Koepnick for singing this morning.

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.

THIS MORNING WE ARE RECOGNIZING THE HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS OF OUR CONGREGATION ON THEIR GRADUATION.

Each year we recognize the high school graduates at Congregational UCC. Usually, members and friends are asked to share their thoughts and good wishes with the graduates in a book that is presented to them along with a Prairie Lights gift certificate. And there is cake.

This year, as last year, is different. We will still celebrate with these seniors, however. This year's graduates are:

Hayden Beerends—City High
Ethan Buck—West High
Nicole Day—City High
Katie Hoefler—West High
Thomazin Jury—City High

We invite you to send your thoughts and good wishes to Tom Mittman, the chair of the Diaconate, who will then compile these and present them to the graduates. Tom's email address is tommittman@gmail.com.

You will have to provide your own cake.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR PEOPLE WHO WOULD LIKE TO SING A SOLO, DUET, ETC. DURING WORSHIP THIS SUMMER. If you are interested, you can sign up [here](#). High school instrumentalists and others who are interested in sharing a solo and accompanying a couple of hymns are also welcome to participate. For more information, please contact Kristin Ramseyer.

REOPENING NEWS: We take another step in reopening our church building as Jenn Harden, our new Office Manager, begins working here this week. Jenn has experience both in working at a church and in working as an administrative assistant. She is excited about returning to a church setting. Jenn's first day will be Tuesday, June 15. At first, she will work 10-15 hours per week. As we increase in-person activities, her hours will increase to 20 hours per week.

A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF BILL WILLIAMS will be held on Saturday, June 26, from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM at Kent Park, Red Haw Shelter - 2048 U.S. 6 Oxford, IA 52322. To help with preparing for this event, please let Janet Williams know if you plan to attend. Janet can be reached at 319-512-3663.

AN ALL CHURCH PICNIC WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, June 27, from 4-7 at City Park Shelter # 12. The Membership Board is planning this event as a way for us to see one another and catch up as we move toward reopening our church building. The Membership Committee will provide drinks and dessert. We're making this a potluck, recognizing that each

person/family will have different levels of comfort with this. Bring a dish to share if you are comfortable with that and if not, bring food for yourself/your family. Shelter 12 is near the play area, so this should be fun for people of all ages. See you there!

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The Reopening Committee is making progress as we plan for a safe return to in-person worship services. We are increasing our internet capability so that we can livestream our worship when we return to Sunday morning services. We are making sure that our filters and air intake provide for high air quality in the sanctuary. Our current plans look at restarting in-person worship in early August. Some church boards will begin meeting at the church later this month.

If you haven't done so yet, please take a few minutes to fill out the Reopening Committee's second survey 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](#).

BOB AND CLAIRE ASHMAN ARE LOOKING FOR GARDEN HELP. If you'd like to help them keep their garden growing this summer, please call Bob at 319-512-6401.

**DELEGATE NEEDED FOR THE JOINT ANNUAL CONFERENCE MEETING—
ALL ONLINE—JUNE 25 & 26**

One of our congregation's elected delegates cannot attend the Annual Meeting of the Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota Conferences. The Church Council is looking for a replacement delegate.

All programs of the Annual Meeting will be virtual this year—no travel is necessary. The Meeting begins at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, June 25 and ends at 4:15 p.m. on Saturday, June 26. The theme this year is "Creation Care: Understanding Our Commitment to Eco-Justice." This will be two days of worship, workshops, business, fellowship, and more. You can learn more about the Annual Meeting [here](#).

If you are interested in representing Congregational UCC at this meeting, please contact Bill Lovin or the members of our Nominating Committee: Barb Sisley and Megan Carnes.

Thanks to everyone who gave to the Strengthen the Church Offering on Pentecost Sunday, May 23. \$340 was received. This money will be used 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.

IC JUNETEENTH EVENTS: All of the events can be also shared from [Facebook](#).

Community Conversations “Real Talk”, Monday, June 14, 6PM-8PM

Please spread the word and encourage people to attend - Pastor Tony Smith is one of the moderators. Register: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYoc-iqqTkjHddy0ValEmcYRiGTsOBWjH6>

Education & Resource Fair, June 16, 4PM-6:30PM

So many amazing give-aways for people who attend, please encourage people to come!
Register: <https://live.remco.co/e/juneteenth-education-and-resourc>

Block Party, June 17 5:00pm

Chauncy Swan Park - music, food, followed by a free screening outdoors of Miss Juneteenth at 8:30pm. Bring your own lawnchair.

Free Meal Drive Thru Pickup, June 19, 11AM

Riverfront Crossings Park. There are still volunteers needed for this event. If you plan on helping out, please sign up [here](#) or spread the word. Drive through the Riverfront Crossings parking lot and pick up a free meal from Rodney's Jamaican Jerk & BBQ or Wich-Uh-Waffle. First come, first serve while supplies last. Juneteenth t-shirts will be given away during the event.

Juneteenth History Walk-in, June 13-19

Stop by participating Black-owned businesses and learn more about the history of Juneteenth and Black history in Johnson County. Pick up a punch card at any of the participating businesses, get it stamped at a least seven of the locations and be entered into a drawing to win a \$100 or \$50 gift card from one of the businesses.