

CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
30 N. CLINTON ST.
IOWA CITY, IA 52245
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WORSHIP FOR JUNE 14, 2020
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PRELUDE Trio, Op. 19, No. 1 Josef Rheinberger

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come Holy Spirit, bring us together—

People of all ages, all different generations

Come, let us know who you are—

Balm for our wounds,

Healer of our brokenness.

Fill us with your wisdom and vision—

Let us worship God.

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 beauty 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.**

OPENING PRAYER

We ask you today, O God, to be with the young, with those who hold dreams, with those who have had dreams postponed or denied. Come as a dove and rest on them. Give them the comfort of your presence and the gentle energy of your Spirit. In these uncertain times, steady us all. Help us find the ground of our being in you, help us to step forward, however tentatively, invited across the threshold of the future where we will still find you. 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 Joel 2:25-28

PSALM 34:1-8

At all times I will bless the Lord,
whose praise shall ever be in my mouth.

**I will glory in the Lord;
let the humble hear and rejoice.**

Proclaim with me the greatness of the Lord;
let us exalt the name of the Lord together.

**I sought the Lord, who answered me
and delivered me out of all my terror.**

Look upon the Lord and be radiant,
and let not your faces be ashamed.

**I called in my affliction and the Lord heard me
and saved me from all my troubles.**

The angel of the Lord encompasses the God-fearing,
and the Lord will deliver them.

**Taste and see that the Lord is good;
happy are they who trust in the Lord!**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Romans 8:35-39

SERMON "Forward"

A TIME OF GRATITUDE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN "God of the Ages, by Whose Hand"

**God of the ages, by whose hand
Through years long past our lives were led,
Give us new courage now to stand,
New faith to find the paths ahead.**

**You are the thought beyond all thought,
The gift beyond our utmost prayer;
No farthest reach where you are not,
No height but we may find you there.**

**Lift up our hearts and set us free
From wild alarms and trembling fears;
In your strong hand eternally
Rests the unfolding of the years.**

**Though there be dark, uncharted space
With worlds on worlds beyond our sight,
Still may we trust your love and grace
And wait your word, "Let there be light."**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

All Glory Be to God on High, BWV 715 - J.S. Bach

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

Thanks to Kevin Koepnick for singing this morning.

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_lx-SCO6dVPBbV0B?usp=sharing

THANKS TO EVERYON WHO GAVE TO THE STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING. We have received \$530 for this special offering. Each year at Pentecost we receive the “Strengthen the Church” offering to strengthen the United Church of Christ’s future by supporting new and renewing churches, youth and young adult ministries, and lay and pastoral leadership development—especially among women and people of color. This offering also funds the “Stillspeaking” Ministry, spreading the message of God’s extravagant welcome, reaching out especially to those who have felt there is no room for them within Christianity and the church. Contributions to this special offering can still be made. Your generous gift will help the UCC create vibrant church communities of extravagant welcome.

THIS MORNING WE RECOGNIZE THE GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS. 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, of course, is different. We still celebrate with these seniors, however. **We invite you to send your thoughts to Tom Mittman, the chair of the Diaconate, who will then compile these and present them to the graduates.** Information about each of the seniors and Tom’s email address were sent out to all members and friends. We will send this information out again in the coming week.

You will have to provide your own cake.

Stay in Place, Stay Alive, ORGANIZE: A Call for Moral Non-Cooperation.

The Mass Poor People's Assembly & Moral March on Washington is going digital! On **June 20th**, the Poor People's Campaign will hold the largest digital and social media gathering of poor and low-wealth people, moral and religious leaders, advocates, and people of conscience in this nation's history. A global pandemic is exposing even more the already existing crisis of systemic racism, poverty, ecological devastation, the war economy and militarism, and the distorted moral narrative of religious nationalism. [RSVP for June 20th here.](#)

