



CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
30 N. CLINTON ST.  
IOWA CITY, IA 52245  
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WORSHIP FOR JUNE 21, 2020  
THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Give me a way, O God, to know myself well enough not to be afraid of what is inside me.  
Help me not to watch myself, but instead to watch you and listen to you.  
Then let me return to the world to love and serve others as fully as I can.  
Donna Schaper

PRELUDE    Trio in C Major, Op. 39, No. 1            Josef Renner

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the name of the Creator who made us,  
    **we celebrate the goodness of our lives.**  
In the name of the Christ who came to set us free,  
    **we rejoice in our diversity of love and life.**  
In the name of the Spirit who sustains us,  
    **we challenge ourselves to grow and to dream.**  
God, in your presence we gather,  
    **be among us now!**

HYMN            "In the Midst of New Dimensions"            Julian Rush  
**In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways.**  
**Who will lead the pilgrim peoples wandering in their separate ways?**

**[Refrain] God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,  
We your people, ours the journey now and ever, now and ever, now and ever more.**

**Through the flood of starving people, warring factions and despair,  
Who will lift the olive branches? Who will light the flame of care?**

**As we stand a world divided by our own self-seeking schemes,  
Grant that we, your global village might envision wider dreams**

**We are man and we are woman, all persuasions, old and young,  
Each a gift in your creation, each a love song to be sung.**

**Should the threats of dire predictions cause us to withdraw in pain,  
May your blazing phoenix spirit, resurrect the church again.**

#### **OPENING PRAYER**

**God of Love, we come together to meet in your name.**

**We come as a church family.**

**We aren't alike.**

**We don't look alike.**

**We don't think alike.**

**We don't act alike**

**and we don't all like the same things.**

**Despite all our diversity**

**and our faults**

**we are all made in your image.**

**May we never forget whose image we reflect.**

**We pray for an inclusive church**

**and yet we don't always like each other.**

**It is hard to accept**

**that other good people can hold views that differ from ours.**

**Not all of us can walk a straight and narrow path.**

**Not all of us would want to.**

**We know there are many worthy paths to travel**

**and you can be found on them all.**

**Provision us with hope and joy.**

**Enable us to walk tall**

**and move forward valuing otherness.**

**Help us to seek good in everyone**

**and in that seeking there find you. Amen.**

#### **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

#### **SCRIPTURE LESSON**

**Exodus 36:1-9**

PSALM 90:1-6, 13-17

Lord, you have been our refuge  
from one generation to another.

**Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or the land and the earth were born,  
from age to age you are God.**

You turn us back to the dust and say,  
"Go back, O child of earth."

**For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past  
and like a watch in the night.**

You sweep us away like a dream;  
we fade away suddenly like the grass.

**In the morning it is green and flourishes;  
in the evening it is dried up and withered.**

Return, O Lord; how long will you tarry?  
be gracious to your servants.

**Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;  
so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.**

Make us glad by the measure of the days that you afflicted us  
and the years in which we suffered adversity.

**Show your servants your works  
and your splendor to their children.**

[Unison]

**May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us;  
prosper the work of our hands;  
prosper our handiwork.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 9:38-41

SERMON "A Generous Inclusivity"

A TIME OF GRATITUDE

DUET

"Alleluia" from *Timete Dominum*

Michael Haydn

Kristin and Josh Ramseyer

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN

"Be Thou My Vision"

**Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Nought be all else to me, save that Thou art—  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.**

**Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,  
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:**

**Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,  
Great God of heave, my treasure Thou art.**

**Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;  
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

## BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Toccata in F Major Dietrich Buxtehude

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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

**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](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1UcrZ4ya9xFir39cG_1x-SCO6dVPBbV0B?usp=sharing)

**THANKS TO EVERYONE 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.

