

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

WORSHIP FOR JUNE 28, 2020
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

O, let my land be a land where Liberty
Is crowned with no false patriotic wreath,
But opportunity is real, and life is free,
Equality is in the air we breathe.

Langston Hughes

PRELUDE “Choral” Flor Peeters

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

For freedom Christ has set us free.

May God give strength to the people.

May God bless the people with peace.

HYMN “My Country, ‘Tis of Thee” Samuel Francis Smith

**My country, 'tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing;
Land where my parents died,
Land of the pilgrims' pride,
From every mountainside let freedom ring!**

**Let music swell the breeze,
And ring from all the trees sweet freedom's song;
Let mortal tongues awake;
Let all that breathe partake;
Let rocks their silence break, the sound prolong.**

**Our parents' God, to Thee,
Author of liberty, to Thee we sing;
Long may our land be bright
With freedom's holy light;
Protect us by thy might, great God, our King.**

OPENING PRAYER

We cry out to you, O God, let us walk out into freedom. Beyond fear, let it be possible for us to go out and meet each other again. For those who are learning what it means to be confined and for those who know already what it means to be less than free let the time come soon when we can join together and make a world where there is a true measure of liberty for each person.

Until then nourish in each of us that sense of freedom you provide. Let your Spirit keep us whole and allow us to choose fullness of life wherever we may be. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 61:1-4

PSALM 146

Hallelujah!

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

I will praise the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

**Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any child of earth,
for there is no help in them.**

When they breathe their last, they return to earth,
and in that day their thoughts perish.

**Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help!
whose hope is in the Lord their God;**

who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps faith forever;

**who gives justice to those who are oppressed,
and food to those who hunger.**

The Lord sets the prisoners free;

the Lord opens the eyes of the blind;

**the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous
and cares for the stranger;**

the Lord sustains the orphan and widow,

but frustrates the way of the wicked.

**The Lord shall reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Hallelujah!**

SCRIPTURE LESSON II Corinthians 3:17-18

SERMON "The Use of Freedom"

A TIME OF GRATITUDE

SOLO "Shall We Gather at the River"

Kristin Ramseyer

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN "Lift Every Voice and Sing" James Weldon Johnson, J. Rosamond Johnson

**Lift every voice and sing
'Til earth and heaven ring
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the listening skies
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun
Let us march on 'til victory is won**

**Stony the road we trod
Bitter the chastening rod
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died
Yet with a steady beat
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our parents sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered
Out from the gloomy past
'Til now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast**

**God of our weary years
God of our silent tears
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way
Thou who has by Thy might
Led us into the light
Keep us forever in the path, we pray
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee
Shadowed beneath Thy hand
May we forever stand
True to our God
True to our native land**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "March"

Flor Peeters

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