

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

WORSHIP FOR JUNE 7, 2020
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Or does it explode?

Langston Hughes

PRELUDE

Prelude in A Minor, BWV 559

J.S. Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Isaiah 58)

You shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and God will say, "Here I am."

**If you remove the yoke from among you
and loose the bonds of injustice
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,**

then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.

**Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.**

HYMN "Diverse in Culture, Nation, Race"

**Diverse in culture, nation, race,
We come together by your grace.
God, let us be a meeting ground
Where hope and healing love are found.**

**God, let us be a bridge of care
Connecting people everywhere.
Help us confront all fear and hate
And lust for power that separate.**

**When chasms widen, storms arise,
O Holy Spirit, make us wise.
Let our resolve, like steel, be strong
To stand with those who suffer wrong.**

**God, let us be a table spread
With gifts of love and broken bread,**

Where all find welcome, grace attends,
And enemies arise as friends.

OPENING PRAYER

O God, we come to worship you.

In this place you call us to be repairers of the breach.

Some of us come before you hopeful for something we will have enough strength and perseverance to bring into being.

Some of us come weary, and worried that we have come to this point before and fallen back rather than going on to complete the task.

We come before you and recognize how limited are we and we do not possess the knowledge that we need. It is only found in other people.

In you are all the parts made whole.

Be among us. Give the hopeful satisfaction. Give the weary and the worried support. And carry us on into the world that you are creating still. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 5:1-10

PSALM 8

O Lord our Lord,

how exalted is your name in all the world!

Out of the mouths of infants and children

your majesty is praised above the heavens.

**You have set up a stronghold against your adversaries,
to quell the enemy and the avenger.**

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,

**what are human beings that you should be mindful of them?
mortals that you should seek them out?**

You have made them but little lower than the angels;
you adorn them with glory and honor;

**you give them mastery over the works of your hands;
you put all things under their feet:**

All sheep and oxen,

even the wild beasts of the field,

**the birds of the air, the fish of the sea,
and whatsoever walks in the paths of the sea.**

[Unison]

O Lord our Lord,

how exalted is your name in all the world!

SCRIPTURE LESSON John 20:19-22

SERMON "Take a Breath"

A TIME OF GRATITUDE

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION

HYMN “Let Us Break Bread Together”

**Let us break bread together on our knees;
let us break bread together on our knees.**

Refrain:

**When I fall on my knees
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.**

**Let us drink wine together on our knees;
let us drink wine together on our knees. [Refrain]**

**Let us praise God together on our knees;
let us praise God together on our knees. [Refrain]**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

THANKSGIVING FOR BREAD AND CUP

Let us join together in prayer:

**We thank you, O Christ,
that scattered though we are, with different needs and hopes
you call us together at this meal and unite us as one body.**

**We thank you for this bread and cup set before us,
food and drink to nourish us in body and in spirit,
signs of your life-giving love.**

**May they speak to us
of the everyday made holy,
of life made new,
of hope for your realm among us.**

We remember that on the night of his arrest...

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of justice and peace, you have nourished us here together. We are all your children. Sustain us with your Spirit through the days before us. Let this meal give us the strength to be repairers of the breach. Amen.

HYMN “O Day of God, Draw Nigh”

**O day of God, draw nigh
in beauty and in power;
come with your timeless judgment now
to match our present hour.**

**Bring to our troubled minds,
uncertain and afraid,
the quiet of a steadfast faith,
calm of a call obeyed.**

**Bring justice to our land,
that all may dwell secure,
and finely build for days to come
foundations that endure.**

**Bring to our world of strife
your sovereign word of peace,
that war may haunt the earth no more,
and desolation cease.**

**O day of God, draw nigh
as at creation's birth;
let there be light again,
and set your judgments on the earth.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Fugue in A Minor, BWV 559 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

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

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH 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 today and in the coming weeks. Your generous gift will help the UCC create vibrant church communities of extravagant welcome.

WE WILL RECOGNIZE THE GRADUATING SENIORS DURING OUR ONLINE WORSHIP ON SUNDAY, JUNE 14. 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 want to 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.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION

Congregational UCC will serve at the Free Lunch Program (FLP) on Monday, June 29 (our usual date on the fifth Monday of the month). If you would like to help, please contact Vicki Thomae at vickithomae@gmail.com or call the church office at 337-4301. Vicki is looking for folks to donate prepared food but will only ask 3-4 people to assist her that day. FLP is serving all meals take out style through the side door in the kitchen. Guests are not allowed in the building. They are strictly limiting the number of volunteers to adhere to social distancing guidelines. They have gloves available as always, but no other PPE. If you would like to wear a mask or other protective “gear,” you will have to bring your own.

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.](#)

