



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

WORSHIP FOR JULY 25, 2021
NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

“Worship must blend innovation and tradition.”
Ralph Klein

PRELUDE Prelude in E-Flat Major, Op. 48 No. 10 - Josef Renner

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 84)
How lovely is your dwelling place,
O God of hosts!

**My soul longs and yearns for your courts;
my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.**

Even the sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for herself,

where she may lay her young, at your altars,
O God of hosts, my ruler and God.

**Blessed are those who dwell in your house,
ever singing your praise.**

Blessed are those whose strength is in you.

HYMN “How Lovely, Lord”
Words and music can be found [here](#).

**How lovely, Lord, how lovely
is your abiding place;
my soul is longing, fainting,
to feast upon your grace.
The sparrow finds a shelter,
a place to build her nest,
and so your temple calls us
with in its walls to rest.**

**In your blest courts to worship,
O God, a single day
is better than a thousand
if I from you should stray.
I'd rather keep the entrance
and claim you as my Lord
than revel in the riches
the ways of sin afford.**

**A sun and shield forever
are you, O Lord Most High;
you shower us with blessings;
no good will you deny.
The saints, your grace receiving,
from strength to strength shall go,
and from their life shall rivers
of blessing overflow.**

OPENING PRAYER (a prayer of Henri Capiou)

God, we sing to you and give you thanks. For despite our pains and faults, in the midst of our pains and faults, we know that you are a God who calls forth our praise and love.

For the world, so beautiful and so fragile; for life, so lovely and so threatened; for this immense universe in which your realm will spread, we praise you.

For this day which speaks to us again of the resurrection, for your Spirit which unites us in all our separate places, we praise you.

And because we can love you and love each other on the earth, in the name of the love of Christ, in peace and with joy, God we praise you. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Ezra 3:10-13

PSALM 136

O give thanks to the Lord, who is good,
whose steadfast love endures forever.

**O give thanks to the God of gods,
whose steadfast love endures forever.**

O give thanks to the Lord of lords,
whose steadfast love endures forever.

**who alone does great wonders,
whose steadfast love endures forever.**

who by understanding made the heavens,
whose steadfast love endures forever.

**who spread out the earth on the waters,
whose steadfast love endures forever.**

who made the great lights,
whose steadfast love endures forever.

**the sun to rule over the day,
whose steadfast love endures forever.**

the moon and stars to rule over the night,
whose steadfast love endures forever.

**It is God who remembered us in our low estate,
whose steadfast love endures forever.**

and rescued us from our foes,
whose steadfast love endures forever.

**who gives food to all flesh,
whose steadfast love endures forever.**

Unison

**O give thanks to the God of heaven,
whose steadfast love endures forever.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 13:51-53

SERMON “Deep Memory, Deep Joy”

TIME OF GRATITUDE

SOLO “Lord, Make Me an Instrument” (Jonathan Willcocks)
Colin Wilson

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

HYMN “All Who Love and Serve Your City”

**All who love and serve your city,
all who bear its daily stress,**

**all who cry for peace and justice,
all who curse and all who bless:**

**In your day of wealth and plenty,
wasted work and wasted play,
call to mind the word of Jesus,
"You must work while it is day."**

**For all days are days of judgment,
and the Lord is waiting still,
drawing near a world that spurns him,
offering peace from Calvary's hill.**

**Risen Lord, shall yet the city
be the city of despair?
Come today, our judge, our glory.
Be its name "The Lord is there!"**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Fanfare - June Nixon

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Opening prayer by Henri Capiou, from A Book of Reformed Prayers, ©1998 Westminster John Knox Press.

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

Thanks to Colin Wilson 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.

REOPENING NEWS: We will resume in-person worship on Sunday, August 1, at our usual time, 10:15 a.m. Masks will be required of all people in worship and we will observe social distance as well. There will be no coffee hour at first, although people are invited to go outside and talk after worship if they wish. We are making sure that our filters and air intake provide for high air quality in the sanctuary. While we are moving toward livestreaming the services, they will initially be recorded and posted later in the day on Sunday.

A Memorial Service for Judy Doorenbos will be held on Friday, July 30, at 11 a.m. at Lensing Funeral Home.

YOU CAN DONATE FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP SERVICES IN AUGUST. With the resumption of in-person worship services comes the opportunity to donate flowers for worship. If you would like to give flowers on an upcoming Sunday, please call our Office Manager, Jenn Harden at 337-4301.

Table to Table Seeks Volunteers

Volunteers interact with food donor organizations, box up and load food donations into a Table to Table van, and transport and unload the food at recipient organizations such as community pantries, shelters, preschools, etc. Route shifts typically take place between 8am-Noon Monday-Friday and last about 2-3 hours. Number of shifts each week depends on the need and the volunteer's availability. We also have a limited number of routes on Saturday mornings. During the summer we also have opportunities related to gleaning fresh fruits and vegetables.

If you think you might be interested and have a bit of time on your hands (even just a few hours during the week) and would like to volunteer, **please email volunteer@table2table.org or call 319-337-3400 to chat about volunteer opportunities.** More information is available at our website: <https://table2table.org/volunteers/>. Masks are required and we have implemented additional safety precautions in accordance with CDC guidelines.