

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

WORSHIP FOR JULY 26, 2020
EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

“Give me summer weather in my heart.”
--Puritan prayer

PRELUDE “Allegretto” John Stainer

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come and hear what God has done:

God has listened to all our prayers.

When we pass through the torrent of deep troubles,

God turns the sea to dry land.

When we are tangled in the web of life,

God does not let our feet slip.

When we are tested as silver is tried,

God keeps us in the land of the living.

When we go through fire and water,

God brings us to a spacious place.

Come and hear what God has done:

God surrounds us with steadfast love.

Let us worship God!

HYMN “Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven”

Praise, my soul, the God of heaven;

glad of heart your carols raise;

rescued, healed, restored, forgiven

who, like me, should sing God's praise?

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise the Maker all your days!

Like a loving parent caring,

God knows well our feeble frame;

gladly all our burdens bearing,

still to countless years the same.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

All within me, praise God's name!

**Angels, teach us adoration,
you behold God face to face;
sun and moon and all creation,
dwellers all in time and space.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Praise with us the God of grace!**

OPENING PRAYER

Creator of our lives, source and destiny of all that is, we come to you in partial awareness of the hallowed nature of each human life, and in need of your reviving Spirit for comfort and grace. In the beauty of this day that you have made, in the solemn reverence of time set apart to hear your Word, in the strength of mutual care, in the silence and in the songs which attend your redeeming power, we come to worship and to wait for you.

May every bitter thought and each nagging worry about what we have done and what we have failed to do be washed out into the ebbing sea of your boundless mercy. Let every noble thought and every impulse of love be stirred anew by the breath of your Spirit. So lead us by your gentle inspiration to sense in each moment eternal depths, immeasurable goodness and the possibilities of tomorrow. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 40:21-31

PSALM 102:1-12

Lord, hear my prayer, and let my cry come before you;
hide not your face from me in the day of my trouble.

**Incline your ear to me;
when I call, make haste to answer me,**

for my days drift away like smoke,
and my bones are hot as burning coals.

**My heart is smitten like grass and withered,
so that I forget to eat my bread.**

Because of the voice of my groaning
I am but skin and bones.

**I have become like a vulture in the wilderness,
like an owl among the ruins.**

I lie awake and groan;
I am like a sparrow, lonely on a house-top.

**My enemies revile me all day long,
and those who scoff at me have taken an oath against me.**

For I have eaten ashes for bread
and mingled my drink with weeping.

**Because of your indignation and wrath
you have lifted me up and thrown me away.**

My days pass away like a shadow,
and I wither like the grass.

**But you, O Lord, endure forever,
and your name from age to age.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 11:28-30

SERMON “The Reason for Rest”

TIME OF GRATITUDE

SOLO “By the Grace of the Spirit” Andrew Gant
 Colin Wilson, soloist

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

HYMN “There Is a Balm in Gilead”

**There is a balm in Gilead
to make the wounded whole,
there is a balm in Gilead
to heal the sin-sick soul.**

**Sometimes I feel discouraged,
And think my work’s in vain,
But then the Holy Spirit
Revives my soul again. [Refrain]**

**Don’t ever feel discouraged,
For Jesus is your friend;
And if you lack for knowledge
He’ll not refuse to lend. [Refrain]**

**If you cannot preach like Peter,
If you cannot pray like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus,
And say, “He died for all.” [Refrain]**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Rejoice!” Colin Mawby

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

Special thanks to Colin Wilson for singing this during our worship today.

“Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven, Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1834; adapt Ecumenical Women's Center and Ruth Duck, 1974. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-715458.

The Call to Worship is adapted from *An Improbable Gift of Blessing* by Maren C. Tirabassi and Joan Jordan Grant. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

Opening Prayer by Allen Happe. Reprinted by permission of the publisher from *Touch Holiness*, ed. Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi. Copyright © 1990 The Pilgrim Press.

DO YOU HAVE A HYMN THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SING IN THE COMING MONTHS? Let Bill Lovin know. This is no guarantee that we will sing it, as the hymn will need to be covered by our reprint license, fit with the rest of the worship service and work for the person who will be leading the singing—but we'd like to hear from you and sing a new song.

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_ix-SCO6dVPBbV0B?usp=sharing

Join the Summertime Bible Study. Bill Lovin will be leading study of the book of Lamentations. This short (five chapters) book speaks to our situation of change and worry as we look for hope. The sessions will include time to talk with one another as we learn ways to “befriend the text.” Bill can lead both a daytime and an evening study. Times will be based on what will work for you. Call Bill at church (337-4301) or email him (uccicrev@uccic.org) to let him know about your interest. We'll get started the first week in August.

Donation Statements for January through June 2020 are now available. If you would like a copy please let Nan Martin know by emailing her at ucciegiving@uccic.org or leaving a message on the office line (337-4301). She can email a copy or put a paper copy in the mail, if you would prefer.

Join the Johnson County Interfaith Coalition for an online gathering on Monday, July 27, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. This is a meeting of people of all faiths to address racism in our community, to repent for the ways in which we participate in individual and systemic racism, and to focus on the repair that needs to happen to work towards becoming an anti-racist community. Register: tinyurl.com/TheChangeAssembly

CROP Walk—Congregational UCC was one of the Top 5 Teams this year, raising over \$930. This was in large part due to the efforts of Betsy Henson and Sylvia Woolums, who were two of the Top 10 Walkers. You can still donate here and even choose to support an individual walker or Congregational UCC.

FOOD BANK RETURNS TO ACCEPTING IN-KIND DONATIONS

Beginning Wednesday, July 22nd, the CommUnity Food Bank will be able to accept donations of food and household items by appointment. Appointments will be available Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 8am-4pm.

There are 3 ways to request an appointment to drop off an in-kind donation. You can:

- Call the Food Bank at 319-351-0128
- E-mail donations@builtbycommunity.org, or

- Set up an appointment at [this link](#)

More information about the types of items we are able to accept is available [on their website](#).

The Consultation of Religious Congregations (CRC) is forming a Racism Education Work Group to compile resources and provide assistance to faith communities as they begin to tackle the tasks spelled out in the CRC Statement on Racism & Current Events. If you are interested in serving in the work group or would like more information, please contact Mark Martin at pastormwm@gmail.com or 319-330-3030. It is his hope to have an initial group session on Zoom before the first of August.

