



Joel—Michelangelo, Sistine Chapel

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

WORSHIP FOR AUGUST 14, 2022
TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

“Running through the Bible’s story of God’s wrath is the theme of God’s constant love and determination to restore people to fellowship and life.”

Elizabeth Acthemeier

PRELUDE “God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens” Setting by Dale Wood

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Ginny Clemons, Liturgist

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Return to God who is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

**For God will comfort the people,
and will have compassion on those who suffer.**

*HYMN 479 “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!

**Praise God for the grace and favor
shown our forebears in distress;
God is still the same forever,
Slow to chide and swift to bless.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Sing our Maker's faithfulness!**

**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**

God of grace, through love you have made us, and for love you call us to repentance and new life. Your forgiveness is fresh every day. Strengthen our prayers and our acts of tenderness. Help us to face our mortality, that we may reach with confidence for your mercy. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and give us your Holy Spirit that we may serve you with willing hearts, bearing witness to your abundant compassion in all the world. Amen.

DUET **"Brethren, We Have Met to Worship"** arr. Mark Hayes & Marvin Gaspard
 Rachel Burchett, piano
 Bill Crouch, piano

TIME OF PRAYER

Prayers of the People

Silent Prayer

The Prayer of Our Savior

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

SERVICE OF GIVING

Invitation

Offertory "Moderato" Flor Peeters

*Response

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Christ, all creatures here below,
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

*Prayer of Dedication

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(At this time, children are dismissed to attend Children's Church.)

SCRIPTURE LESSON Joel 2:12-27

PSALM 103:1-5, 8-12, 14-15, 17-18

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

**Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all the benefits of the Lord,**

who forgives all your sins

and heals all your infirmities;

**who redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;**

who satisfies you with good things,

and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

**The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and of great kindness.**

The Lord will not always accuse us

nor remain angry forever.

**The Lord has not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.**

For as the heavens are high above the earth,

so is the Lord's mercy great upon the God-fearing.

**As far as the east is from the west,
so far has the Lord removed our sins from us.**

For the Lord knows whereof we are made

and remembers that we are but dust.

**Our days are like the grass;
we flourish like a flower of the field.**

But the merciful goodness of the Lord endures forever on the God-fearing,
and the righteousness of the Lord on children's children;

**on those who keep the holy covenant
and remember the commandments and do them.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Romans 8:31-39

SERMON “The Steadfast Love of God”

* HYMN 553 “For the Fruit of All Creation”

**For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God;
for the gifts of every nation, thanks be to God;
for the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safe-keeping, thanks be to God.**

**In the just reward of labor, God's will is done;
in the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done;
in our world-wide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.**

**For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God;
for the good we all inherit, thanks be to God;
for the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.**

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Fantasy on “Holy Manna” Setting by John Carter

Minister:	The Rev. Bill Lovin
Director of Children’s Programs:	The Rev. Ann Molsberry
Organist:	Bill Crouch
Choir Director	Chris Nakielski
Office Manager	Jenn Harden

“For the Fruit of All Creation” Fred Pratt Green Words - ©1970 Hope Publishing Company
Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-715458. All rights reserved.

“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.

WE’RE GLAD THAT YOU HAVE JOINED US FOR WORSHIP THIS MORNING. We are putting the safety of both the vaccinated and the unvaccinated in our congregation and the community first. Masks are required for all people in all parts of the building. We will keep social distance in the pews. Everyone is invited to Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall after worship. Masks are optional in Rockwood Hall during Coffee Hour.

THANKS TO RACHEL BURCHETT for playing piano this morning.

A NEW MEMBER CLASS will be held in the coming weeks. If you are interested in joining Congregational UCC or would like more information about us, we invite you to attend these sessions. For more information, please talk with Bill Lovin or call the church office, 337-4301.

THERE'S STILL TIME TO JOIN THE NEW BIBLE STUDY: Bill is leading a Zoom Bible study looking at Paul's letter to the Romans. Together we are exploring some of the theological depths of this book that is the longest, the weightiest, and the most substantial of all of Paul's correspondence. Stronger fare than usual for the summer, to be sure! The sessions are informal and no previous knowledge of the specific book or the Bible in general is needed. If you are interested, call Bill at 319-337-4301 or email him at uccicrev@uccic.org and he'll send you the Zoom invitation. We will meet on Wednesday evening from 7:00- 8:30.

USHERS, GREETERS, AND HOSPITALITY OPPORTUNITIES: As we continue to reopen, there are new opportunities to greet people coming to worship, to usher, and to provide hospitality during coffee hour after worship. Please sign up on the sheets in Rockwood Hall or call the church office--319-337-4031.

THE WOMEN'S LUNCH WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 18, at 11:45 a.m., at Monica's at 11:45 p.m., at. Call or text Martha Ann Crawford—319-855-8340—to reserve a seat.

THE MEN'S BREAKFAST WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 20: The August Men's Breakfast will be held at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 20, at the Waterfront Hy-Vee. All Congregational UCC men who eat breakfast are invited. This is a great way to catch up with old friends and meet new friends.

SERVING AT THE FREE LUNCH PROGRAM—Our church is scheduled to serve at the Free Lunch Program on Monday, August 29. If you would consider volunteering for this worthwhile event, please email vickithomae@gmail.com and she will email you the sign up sheet. Thanks so much!

FAITH IN ACTION: A JCIC FUND AND FRIEND RAISER: The Johnson County Interfaith Coalition (JCIC) invites you to join us at the Unitarian Universalist Society, 2355 Oakdale Rd, Coralville September 8, 2022 5:30-8PM Co-chairs are Bea Hicks and Donna Hirst.

The goals of Faith in Action are: 1) to raise money for a community organizer to develop grants, assist with community events and actions, and build the community by enlisting new member organizations, 2) to provide an opportunity for the community to share a meal and social opportunities, 3) to celebrate JCIC accomplishments and renew a common purpose, and 4) provide basic information about the current status of JCIC. The event will include music, a catered meal featuring Mexican and Middle Eastern cuisine, and a silent auction. Attendees will have an opportunity to register their highest priority social justice concerns during "Issues on the Wall".

Tickets are \$50 per adult. Discounted tickets are available; we want everyone who is interested to attend. The registration form includes instructions for requesting a discount.

REGISTER:

To register online go to <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/372529715407> by August 29, 2022.

SPONSOR:

Individual Sponsors are encouraged at 3 levels: 1) Supporter \$100 2) Change agent \$300 3) Transformational \$500.

About JCIC:

The Congregational UCC has been a member of JCIC since its inception in 2017. JCIC has ca. 20 member institutions: Protestant, Jewish, Catholic, Islamic, and secular. Our vision: To build a multi-cultural faith-based community organization that advocates for social justice. Our mission: To organize for social equity, first and foremost for persons of color.

TEE OFFERING Will Be Received on September 18. Our annual offering to support the Theological Education by Extension College in South Africa (TEE Offering) will be received during worship on Sunday, September 18. This offering has been a tradition in our congregation for several decades. It was initially started when the brother of our then minister, the Rev. Ed Heining, worked for TEE in South Africa. TEE is a private, nonprofit, distance learning institution serving five south African countries. The mission of the college is to equip men and women for Christian ministry. Students come from 28 denominations across southern Africa including the UCC of South Africa. For more information about this amazing program, please visit their website at www.tee.co.za. Please plan to give generously—our support makes a difference.



WANT TO GIVE ONLINE? SCAN THE QR CODE FOR OUR GIVING APP. Your giving makes a world of difference.

WE LIVE STREAM OUR WORSHIP SERVICES AT 10:15 ON SUNDAY MORNING.

You can join us online in real time at <https://vimeo.com/event/1424751>. This streaming address is the same each week.

RECORDINGS OF THE WORSHIP SERVICES are posted after worship on Sunday 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.