



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

WORSHIP FOR AUGUST 15, 2021
TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the morning, when the sun rises

we shall praise you, O God.

You have delivered us through every long night

and given us safe passage across the rivers of struggle.

The darkness is past; the Light has come.

In joy we raise our prayers to you, O God.

HYMN "O That I Had a Thousand Voices"

OPENING PRAYER (a prayer by Thomas Merton)

My Lord God,

I have no idea where I am going.

I do not see the road ahead of me.

I cannot know for certain where it will end.

Nor do I really know myself,

**and the fact that I think I am following your will
does not mean that I am actually doing so.**

**But I believe that the desire to please you
does in fact please you.**

And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.

I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.

**And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road,
though I may know nothing about it.**

Therefore will I trust you always

though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.

I will not fear, for you are ever with me,

and you will never leave me to face my perils alone. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON II Kings 4:42-44

PSALM 145:10-18

All your works praise you, O Lord,
and your faithful servants bless you.

**They make known the glory of your reign
and speak of your power;**

that the peoples may know of your power
and the glorious splendor of your reign.

**Your reign is an everlasting reign;
your dominion endures throughout all ages.**

O Lord, you are faithful in all your words
and merciful in all your deeds.

**The Lord upholds all those who fall
and lifts up those who are bowed down.**

The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord,
and you give them their food in due season.

**You open wide your hand
and satisfy the needs of every living creature.**

O Lord, you are righteous in all your ways
and loving in all your works.

**O Lord, you are near to those who call upon you,
to all who call upon you faithfully.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON John 6:1-14

SERMON “More Than Enough”

TIME OF GRATITUDE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

HYMN “Peace Like a River”

BENEDICTION

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

Thanks to Chris Nakielski for singing this morning.

RECORDINGS OF THE WORSHIP SERVICES are posted 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:

The Church Council met in early August and considered the recommendations of the Reopening Committee for resuming in-person worship on Sunday mornings. As many of you know, our plans for in-person worship on August 1 were changed because of electrical problems that affected the air conditioning and ventilation in the building and the lights in the sanctuary. These electrical problems continued into the week of August 8. As we were recording Bill’s sermon on August 7, the power went out! Concerns about the increase of the Covid Delta variant were also taken into account by the Council.

In early August, the Iowa UCC Conference strongly suggested that congregations who are still meeting and worshipping online only continue to do so until the conditions improve.

Putting the safety of both the vaccinated and the unvaccinated in our congregation and the community first, **we have decided to set Sunday, September 12, the first Sunday after Labor Day, as the date to resume in-person worship.** This will allow us to accomplish several things in the coming weeks:

1. Fix any outstanding electrical problems.
2. Monitor Covid cases to make sure they are at a safe level. This is especially important as students begin to arrive from across the state, nation, and world in the coming weeks.
3. Finish preparations for live-streaming worship services so that those who are unable to attend in person can still participate.

Our worship schedule will be as follows;

- **August 15—Outdoor worship service at 10:15 a.m., City Park Shelter #12.**
- August 22—Online only, Ann Molsberry preaching
- August 29—Online only, Bill Lovin preaching
- September 5—Online only, Bill Lovin preaching
- September 12—In-person worship in the sanctuary, 10:15 a.m.

This was a difficult decision and we understand the disappointment that some might feel. Everyone wants to get back to worshipping together as soon as possible. A few more weeks away during the summer will prepare us for coming together once more at the time when our program year traditionally begins.

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.