



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

WORSHIP FOR AUGUST 21, 2022  
ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

"Righteousness goes beyond justice. Justice is strict and exact, giving each person his due. Righteousness implies benevolence, kindness, generosity. ...Justice may be legal; righteousness is associated with a burning compassion for the oppressed."

Abraham Joshua Heschel

PRELUDE "Summer Pastures" William Lloyd Webber

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Kevin Koepnick, Liturgist

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

To everything there is a season  
A time to break down and a time to build up  
**A time to cast away stones**  
**And a time gather stones together.**

Let us worship God  
As we attend to the work of our time,  
**That we might be equipped for those tasks**  
**We are called to do in these days.**

**\*HYMN 458 "Earth and All Stars"**

**Earth and all stars, Loud rushing planets  
Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Hail, wind, and rain, Loud blowing snowstorm  
Sing to the Lord a new song!**

**God has done marvelous things.  
We will sing praises with a new song!**

**Steel and machines, Loud pounding hammers  
Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Limestone and beams, Loud building workers  
Sing to the Lord a new song!**

**God has done marvelous things.  
We will sing praises with a new song!**

**Classrooms and labs, Loud boiling test tubes  
Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Athlete and band, Loud cheering people  
Sing to the Lord a new song!**

**God has done marvelous things.  
We will sing praises with a new song!**

**Knowledge and truth, Loud sounding wisdom  
Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Daughter and son, Loud praying members  
Sing to the Lord a new song!**

**God has done marvelous things.  
We will sing praises with a new song!**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**Living God, we seek your presence now.**

**Our minds cannot understand you, yet our hearts rest in your love and compassion.**

**Our faith cannot grasp you, yet in you we live and move and have our being.**

**Our way ahead into this week is hidden from us, but we trust that we go through these days  
kept in your gracious care.**

**Renew our vision of the goodness in which our day-to-day lives are lived.**

**Open our eyes to see your presence in the simple glories of everyday things.**

**Strengthen our relationships with other people.**

**Help us so to see where we went wrong in the past, that we shall be able to take our  
bearings afresh for the way ahead.**

**In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

DUET            “Pie Jesu” from *Requiem*     Andrew Lloyd Webber.  
                    Colette Nakielski and Marie Von Behren

#### 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        “Trio in F Major”     John Stainer

\*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        Amos 5:18-24

#### PSALM 37

Do not fret yourself because of evildoers;  
do not be jealous of those who do wrong.

**For they shall soon wither like the grass,  
and like the green grass fade away.**

Put your trust in the Lord and do good;  
dwell in the land and feed on its riches.

**Take delight in the Lord,  
who shall give you your heart's desire.**

Commit your way to the Lord; put your trust in the Lord,  
who will bring it to pass.

**The Lord will make your righteousness as clear as the light  
and your just dealing as the noonday.**

Be still before the Lord;  
wait patiently for the Lord.

**Do not fret yourself over the one who prospers,  
the one who succeeds in evil schemes.**

Refrain from anger, leave rage alone;  
do not fret yourself; it leads only to evil.

**For evildoers shall be cut off,  
but those who wait upon the Lord shall possess the land.**

In a little while the wicked shall be no more;  
you shall search out their place, but they will not be there.

**But the lowly shall possess the land;  
they will delight in abundance of peace.**

But the deliverance of the righteous comes from the Lord,  
who is their stronghold in time of trouble.

**The Lord will help them and rescue them;  
the Lord will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them,  
because in the Lord they seek refuge.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON      Luke 18:1-8

SERMON      “Minor Prophets, Major Concerns: The Justice of God”

\* HYMN 434      “Today We Are All Called to Be Disciples”

**Today we all are called to be  
disciples of the Lord,  
to help to set the captive free,  
make plowshare out of sword,  
to feed the hungry, quench their thirst,  
make love and peace our fast,  
to serve the poor and homeless first,  
our ease and comfort last.**

**God made the world and at its birth  
ordained our human race  
to live as stewards of the earth,  
responding to God’s grace.  
But we are vain and sadly proud;  
we sow not peace but strife.  
Our discord spreads a deadly cloud  
that threatens all of life.**

**Pray justice may come rolling down  
as in a mighty stream,  
with righteousness in field and town  
to cleanse us and redeem.  
For God is longing to restore  
an earth where conflicts cease,  
a world that was created for  
a harmony of peace.**

**May we in service to our God  
act out the living word,  
and walk the road the saints have trod**

**till all have seen and heard.  
As stewards of the earth may we  
give thanks in one accord  
to God who calls us all to be  
disciples of the Lord.**

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE            “Postlude”     William Lloyd Webber

“Earth and All Stars,” Contributors: Herbert F Brokering, David N. Johnson. Tune: © 1968, Augsburg Fortress Text: © 1968, Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-715458. All rights reserved.

“Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples,” Words - ©1985, 1989 Presbyterian Publishing/Westminster John Knox/Geneva Press. Contributors: H. Kenn Carmichael. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-715458. All rights reserved.

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

**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 MARIE VON BEHREN AND COLETTE NAKIELSKI** for singing this morning.

**JENN HARDEN WILL BE OUT OF THE OFFICE ON MONDAY.** The church office will be open 9-1 on Tuesday through Friday this coming week.

**THE DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES FOR THE SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER** is Tuesday, August 23.

**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](mailto: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.

**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](mailto: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.

**UNDERSTANDING THE PROPOSED "RIGHT TO FIREARMS" AMENDMENT TO IOWA'S CONSTITUTION. Monday, September 19, at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom**

The Congregational UCC Mission Board is hosting a Zoom presentation by Liz O'Hara, a local gun violence prevention advocate working in Johnson County. The presentation highlights

what's at stake and why the official description of the amendment is misleading. The presentation provides historical data on gun violence in Iowa, a reading of the actual amendment and its legal ramifications for sensible gun safety measures, and information on the consequences of similar amendments passed in other states. The effects of this constitutional amendment would be far-reaching and long-lasting. This presentation, which lasts approximately 20 minutes, is designed to provide voters with the information they need to cast an informed vote in November. The Mission Board is providing this information to the congregation because we believe this is an important topic.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://uiowa.zoom.us/j/95531177718>

**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 Heininger, 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](http://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.