



Obadiah—Greek Orthodox Icon

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

WORSHIP FOR AUGUST 28, 2022
TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

“The last word of the prophet is not one of destruction and judgment, but a message of hope.”
Samuel Pagán

PRELUDE “Shall We Gather at the River” Setting by John Carter

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Derek Willard, Liturgist

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Let us rejoice, for morning has dawned. A new day has been born, and we are newly alive to enjoy it.

We know the beauty of God's creation and the wonder of the human family. We remember those whose love has shaped our lives and those whose struggle for justice has been unsleeping even in night times of loneliness.

We gather to worship God, to share prayers and gifts, to pledge ourselves to God's work in the world.

May God bless us, so that what we do in this time together may be honest, sacred, and filled with hope.

***HYMN 229 "From All That Dwell Below the Skies"**

From all that dwell below the skies

Let the Creator's praise arise:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let the Redeemer's name be sung

Through every land, by every tongue.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

In every land begin the song,

To every land the strains belong:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

In cheerful sounds all voices raise

And fill the world with joyful praise.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Eternal are Thy mercies, Lord;

Eternal truth attends Thy Word:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore,

Till suns rise and set no more.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

OPENING PRAYER

Holy God, we thank you that you receive us, not according to our failing goodness, but according to your overflowing grace. You receive us as we are. You show us what we can be. You have come to us in Jesus Christ to share our common lot and reconcile us to yourself. Sweep over us with your Spirit, change us by your love, that we may sing with joy before you and live to your glory in the world. Amen.

QUARTET "Peace Like a River in My Soul"

Loralyn Hogue, Colette Nakielski, Marie Von Behren, Rebecca Weathersford

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" Jacques Lemmens

*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 Obadiah 1:1-14

PSALM 30

I will exalt you, O Lord,
because you have lifted me up
and have not let my enemies triumph over me.

**O Lord my God, I cried out to you,
and you restored me to health.**

You brought me up, O Lord, from the dead;
you restored my life as I was going down to the grave.

**Sing to the Lord, you faithful servants;
give thanks for the remembrance of God's holiness.**

For God's wrath lasts but the twinkling of an eye,
God's favor endures for a lifetime.

**Weeping may spend the night,
but joy comes in the morning.**

While I felt secure, I said,
"I shall never be disturbed.

You, Lord, with your favor, made me as strong as the mountains."

**Then you hid your face,
and I was filled with fear.**

I cried to you, O Lord;

I pleaded with the Lord, saying,

**"What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the pit?
will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?**

Hear, O Lord, and have mercy upon me;

O Lord, be my helper."

**You have turned my wailing into dancing;
you have put off my sack-cloth and clothed me with joy.**

[Unison]

**Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing;
O Lord my God, I will give you thanks forever.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Obadiah 1:15-21

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

* HYMN 418 “God Bless Your Church with Strength”

**God bless your church with strength!
Wherever we may be,
up build your servants as we work
in common ministry.
Urge us from fledgling faith
to venture and to soar
through open skies to sing the praise
of Christ whom we adore.**

**God bless your church with life!
May all our branches thrive,
un blemished, wholesome, bearing fruit,
abundantly alive.
From you, one holy vine,
in freedom may we grow;
sustain us in our mission, Lord,
your love and peace to show.**

**God bless your church with hope!
Despite chaotic days,
may we in darkness shine to light
a pathway through life's maze.
May justice be our aim,
and kindness ours to share;
in humbleness oh may we walk,
assured our God is there!**

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “From All That Dwell Below the Skies” Rudolf Moser

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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 LORALYN HOGUE, COLETTE NAKIELSKI AND MARIE VON BEHREN, and REBECCA WEATHERSFORD for singing 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.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SERVE AS A LITURGIST ON SUNDAY MORNING? This is a great opportunity to welcome people and to lead them in worship. Bill Lovin provides the material. You provide the spirit. Contact Bill if you are interested or would like more information.

TIME TO JOIN THE CHOIR—Come one, come all, choristers! Our volunteer choir begins its season with a "round-up" rehearsal on Wednesday, 9/7 from 7-9 p.m. From there we meet each Sunday morning at 9 a.m. sharp for a one-hour rehearsal before the service. We officially begin our melodious choral season on Sunday, 9/11. Whether you're a long-time member or the new kid on the block, WE WANT YOU! The UCC choir is a wonderful group of people who work hard at making great music; you'll be sure to enjoy this experience. Questions? Please get in touch with choral director Chris Nakielski at cnakielski@cornellcollege.edu.

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 UCC is a major sponsor donating \$2,000 for tickets for low income individuals. As a Thank You, the JCIC Board would like UCC members to attend as guests. Some individuals will prefer to complete a regular registration, but for any UCC members who would like to attend as guests, send your name to Donna Hirst donna-hirst@uiowa.edu with any dietary restrictions. We can ensure that group tables are available for all UCC members, though mingling is also encouraged. As of August 13, 4 UCC members are registered; our goal is 12 or more.

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 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.

REGISTER:

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

SPONSOR:

There are 3 levels of sponsorships: 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. Please plan to give generously—our support makes a difference.

THE LOVE FOOD, FIGHT WASTE PROGRAM is switching things up for the September topic to bring you a free, in-person film screening of the movie, [Just Eat It: A Food Waste Story](#), in partnership with Summer of the Arts. Those interested should register by August 31.

- **What:** [Just Eat It: A Food Waste Story](#) in-person, drive-in movie night!
- **When:** Friday, September 2.
 - Gates open at 6:45 p.m. Please arrive by 7:30 p.m. Movie begins at dark (around 8:00 p.m). The movie will run until about 9:30 p.m.
- **Where:** Iowa City Municipal Airport.
- **Register:** No cost to attend, but [registration is required](#) by Aug. 31.

Save your spot for our free drive-in movie on our [secure registration website here](#). You may also call 319-337-3400 to register, purchase concessions, or make a donation. Your registration reserves a space for one vehicle at the drive-in movie or a spot in our general admission lawn seating (please bring your own lawn chair).

For more information, visit www.icgov.org/lovefood. Watch the [film trailer online](#).



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.