

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

Today is a communion Sunday. Before joining the worship service, you are invited to get whatever you eat and whatever you drink. It can be bread and grape juice or wine or as simple as a cracker or rice cake and water for use in our worship.

WORSHIP FOR AUGUST 2, 2020
NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

“As a people of faith, as a people of hope, we need the blessing of God Almighty. It does not matter what language you speak or the color of your skin, it does not matter whether you worship one God, many gods, or no gods. We are one people, one family.”

John Lewis

PRELUDE “Fugue in F Major” G.F. Handel

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 37)

Trust in God and do good;
so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.

**Take delight in the Lord,
and God will give you the desires of your heart.**

Commit your way to the Lord,
trust in God, and God will act.

**God will make your righteousness shine like the light,
and your just dealing as the noonday.**

HYMN “I to the Hills Will Lift My Eyes”

**I to the hills will lift my eyes;
from whence shall come my aid?
My help is from the Lord alone,
who heaven and earth has made.**

**God will not let your foot be moved;
your Guardian never sleeps;
God's watchful and unslumbering care
protects and safely keeps.**

**Your faithful keeper is the Lord,
your shelter and your shade.
'Neath sun or moon, by day or night,
you shall not be afraid.**

**From evil God will keep you safe,
provide for all you need.
Your going out, your coming in,
God will forever lead.**

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 Isaiah 26:1-9

PSALM 119:105-112

Your word, O God, is a lamp to my feet
and a light upon my path.

**I have sworn and am determined
to keep your righteous judgments.**

I am deeply troubled;
preserve my life, O Lord, according to your word.

**Accept, O Lord, the willing tribute of my lips,
and teach me your judgments.**

My life is always in my hand,
yet I do not forget your law.

**The wicked have set a trap for me,
but I have not strayed from your commandments.**

Your decrees are my inheritance forever;
truly, they are the joy of my heart.

**I have applied my heart to fulfill your statutes
forever and to the end.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON John 14:1-6a

SERMON “Finding Our Way”

A TIME OF GRATITUDE

HYMN “For the Bread Which You Have Broken”

**For the bread, which You have broken;
For the wine, which You have poured;
For the words, which You have spoken—
Now we give You thanks, O Lord.**

**By this promise that You love us,
By Your gift of peace restored,
By Your call to Heaven above us,
Hallow all our lives, O Lord.**

**With the saints who now adore You
Seated at the heavenly board,
May the Church still waiting for You
Keep love’s tie unbroken, Lord.**

**In Your service, Lord, defend us,
In our hearts keep watch and ward;
In the world to which You send us
Let Your kingdom come, O Lord.**

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

THANKSGIVING FOR BREAD AND CUP

Let us join together in prayer:

**We thank you, O Christ,
that scattered though we are, with different needs and hopes
you call us together at this meal and unite us as one body.**

**We thank you for this bread and cup set before us,
food and drink to nourish us in body and in spirit,
signs of your life-giving love.**

**May they speak to us
of the everyday made holy,
of life made new,
of hope for your realm among us.**

We remember that on the night of his arrest...

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF BREAD AND CUP

SOLO “**He Shall Feed His Flock**”
 Teresa Treat

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**God of hope, Bread of life,
thank you for providing for us at your table.
Where there is injury, send us out as agents of forgiveness.
Where there is fear, send us out as agents of peace,
until we arrive at your beloved community
where earth and heaven meet. Amen.**

HYMN “**Lead On Eternal Sovereign**”
**Lead on eternal Sovereign, we follow in your way;
loud rings your cry for justice, your call for peace this day;
Through prayerful preparation, our grace will make us strong,
to carry on the struggle to triumph over wrong.**

**Lead on eternal Sovereign, we follow not with fear,
for in each human conflict you words of strength we hear;
That when we serve with gladness, you will not let us fall,
our trust is in your promise that love will conquer all.**

**Lead on eternal Sovereign, till sins fierce war shall cease,
and all your saints together will sing a hymn of peace;
Then all in your dominion will live with hearts set free,
to love and serve each other for all eternity.**

POSTLUDE “**Fugue in C Major**” G.F. Handel

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

Special thanks to Teresa Treat for singing during our worship today.

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JOIN THE SUMMERTIME BIBLE STUDY. Bill Lovin is leading a 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.” The sessions will be held on Zoom. Currently a study is set to begin this coming Wednesday, August 5, at 7:00 p.m. If there is enough interest, we can also hold a daytime session. Call Bill at church (337-4301) or email him (uccicrev@uccic.org) to let him know about your interest.

RECORDINGS OF THE WORSHIP SERVICES are posted by early Sunday morning 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.

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_lx-SCO6dVPBbV0B?usp=sharing

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 uccicgiving@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.

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.

TEE OFFERING Will Be Received on September 13: Our annual offering to support the Theological Education by Extension College in South Africa (TEE Offering) will be received during worship on Sunday, September 13. 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.

CONGREGATIONAL UCC WILL SERVE AT THE FREE LUNCH PROGRAM on August 31. If you are interested in helping, please contact Vicki Thomae at vickithomae@gmail.com.

