

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

WORSHIP FOR SEPTEMBER 13, 2020
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

“Teach your children well...”

Graham Nash

PRELUDE “Adagietto” Noel Rawsthorne

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 96)

O sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.

**Sing to the Lord, bless God’s name;
tell of God’s salvation from day to day.**

Declare God’s glory among the nations,
God’s marvelous works among all the peoples.

For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised.

HYMN “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

O God, we cannot identify our world or ourselves. When things are this strange and strained, help us to find ourselves in knowing you. We cannot take our cues from what we normally do and how we normally act. Those actions we usually take to steady ourselves and reassure each other are removed from us right now. We cannot learn from the usual things we do and we cannot undertake many of the activities we use to tell each other we are all right.

You offer a different way. You tell us we can learn something new, that we must learn many new things. Assure us we can find our way in the bewildering confusion in which we find ourselves. Steady us by telling us we can let go of those things we cannot attain right now. Free us to face whatever needs looking at in a new way. Reassure us we will remain ourselves because we remain always and most of all made in your image, formed for this world no matter what happens in it. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE LESSON Proverbs 9:1-12

PSALM 86:11-17

Teach me your way, O Lord,
and I will walk in your truth;
knit my heart to you that I may fear your name.

**I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart,
and glorify your name forevermore.**

For great is your love toward me;
you have delivered me from the nethermost pit.

**The arrogant rise up against me, O God,
and a violent mob seeks my life;
they have not set you before their eyes.**

But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.

**Turn to me and have mercy upon me;
give your strength to your servant;
and save the child of your handmaid.**

[Unison]

**Show me a sign of your favor,
so that those who hate me may see it and be ashamed;
because you, O Lord, have helped me and comforted me.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON John 8:12, 31-32

SERMON “Learning in the Pandemic”

A TIME OF GRATITUDE

ANTHEM "Be Thou My Vision," arr. Dennis Janzer
Avery Nabholz, soprano
Wen Chin Liu, alto
Colin Wilson, tenor
Josh Ramseyer, bass
Andrew Knapp, trombone

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

HYMN “God of Our Life”

**God of our life, through all the circling years,
We trust in Thee;
In all the past, through all our hopes and fears,
Thy hand we see.
With each new day, when morning lifts the veil,
We own Thy mercies, Lord, which never fail.**

**God of the past, our times are in Thy hand;
With us abide.
Lead us by faith, to hope's true promised land;
Be Thou our guide.
With Thee to bless, the darkness shines as light,
and faith's fair vision changes into sight.**

**God of the coming years, through paths unknown
We follow Thee;
When we are strong, Lord, leave us not alone;
Our refuge be.
Be Thou for us in life our daily bread,
Our heart's true home when all our years have sped.**

POSTLUDE “Voluntary” Andrew Moore

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

"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.

"God of Our Life," Lutheran Service Book, John Weaver. Music ©1958 Augsburg, Hugh T. Kerr, F. M. Braselman. Words ©1928 Presbyterian Publishing/Westminster John Knox/Geneva Press. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-715458. All rights reserved.

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

A NEW ZOOM BIBLE STUDY WILL BEGIN ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30. We'll be looking at the Gospel of Mark for eight sessions, two chapters each week. If you would like to be a part of this or have any questions, please call Bill Lovin at church (337-4301) or send him an email at uccicrev@uccic.org

FREE LUNCH PROGRAM NEWS
Providing Good Food and Hospitality since 1983

Our church prepared **120** lunches to go at the Free Lunch Program on August 31, 2020. Since the dining room is now closed due to the COVID-19, new procedures have been established that are working very well. So many generous members of our church volunteered by donating food for take-home lunches. Heartfelt thanks to: **Dianne Atkins, Sue Dayton, Diane Duncan-Goldsmith, Paula Forest, Barb Hanson, Shelagh Hayreh, Betsy Henson, Marge Hoppin, Tom Mittman, Linda Muston, Edie Roberts, Rebecca Weatherford** Special appreciation to **Betsy Henson, Joan Jehle, Edie Roberts and Laurie Stunz** for their cheerful onsite support. Our next scheduled serving date is Monday, November 30, 2020. **Vicki Thomae**

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/1UcrZ4ya9xFir39cG1x-SCO6dVPBbV0B?usp=sharing>

FOOD BANK RETURNS TO ACCEPTING IN-KIND DONATIONS: The CommUnity Food Bank is 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](#).

TABLE TO TABLE CAN USE YOUR HELP:

Garden Recovery Program: Calling all Gardeners! Table to Table is looking for home gardeners with extra produce to donate. You grow and harvest it, and they will pick it up! Start donating now by contacting T2T at gardendonation@table2table.org, or by calling 319-337-3400.

Gleaning Program: Let's go glean! Help us glean (harvest) food from local farms to donate to our neighbors in need. Flexible schedule and social distancing outdoors. To volunteer, contact Table to Table at gleaning@table2table.org or call 319-337-3400.

Ten Thousand Villages Iowa City is seeking an Executive Director. This person will be in charge of the retail store on the downtown Ped Mall. Responsibilities include staffing, purchasing inventory, and management duties. The desire is for applicants to be strong supporters of fair trade and the Village's mission. Submit resumes to Wendell Miller at wendellm1951@gmail.com.

