



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

WORSHIP FOR SEPTEMBER 18, 2022  
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

“We human beings sometimes want to remain the judges of human history, the sole arbiters of right and wrong, and the last warders of proper conduct. In our role, then, as magistrates over human life, we decide what God can and cannot do... We dismiss Nahum as inferior to our sense of what is proper.”

Elizabeth Achtemeier

PRELUDE “Andante “ J.G. Albrechtsberger

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS John Fieselmann, Liturgist

CHORAL INTROIT

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

In the name of the Creator who has made us,

**we celebrate the goodness of our lives.**

In the name of the Christ who came to set us free,

**we rejoice in our diversity of love and life.**

In the name of the Spirit who sustains us,

**we challenge ourselves to grow and to dream.**  
God, in your presence we gather,  
**be among us now!**

\*HYMN 272           “God of the Sparrow”

**God of the sparrow  
God of the whale  
God of the swirling stars  
How does the creature say Awe  
How does the creature say Praise**

**God of the earthquake  
God of the storm  
God of the trumpet blast  
How does the creature cry Woe  
How does the creature cry Save**

**God of the rainbow  
God of the cross  
God of the empty grave  
How does the creature say Grace  
How does the creature say Thanks**

**God of the hungry  
God of the sick  
God of the prodigal  
How does the creature say Care  
How does the creature say Life**

**God of the neighbor  
God of the foe  
God of the pruning hook  
How does the creature say Love  
How does the creature say Peace**

**God of the ages  
God near at hand  
God of the loving heart  
How do your children say Joy  
How do your children say Home**

\*OPENING PRAYER

**Creating, Redeeming, and Sustaining God, you gather us in all our diversity and difference  
and hold us together as one in Christ. We give you thanks that  
when we cannot let go of past wrongs, your grace comes to us new each day;  
when we are weary and worried, your Spirit revives us;**

**when we are in despair about our world or our lives, you renew our hope and point us toward tomorrow.**

**Speak gently to us now in our trouble and distraction that we might be still and know that you are God. Keep us aware of your presence with us as we live in love and joy through the days ahead. Amen.**

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#464, vs. 1)

**Joyful, joyful we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, Opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; Drive the gloom of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day.**

ANTHEM     *“Dies Irae”* from *“Requiem”*             W.A. Mozart

#### 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.**

Choral Response

#### SERVICE OF GIVING

Invitation

Offertory     *“Adagio”*     Friedrich Schneider

\*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     Nahum 1:1-11

#### PSALM 85

You have been gracious to your land, O Lord,  
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

**You have forgiven the iniquity of your people  
and pardoned all their sins.**

You have withdrawn all your fury  
and turned yourself from your wrathful indignation.

**Restore us again, O God our Savior;  
let your anger depart from us.**

Will you be displeased with us forever?  
will you prolong your anger from age to age?

**Will you not give us life again,  
that your people may rejoice in you?**

Show us your mercy, O Lord,  
and grant us your salvation.

**I will listen, O Lord God, to what you are saying,  
for you are speaking peace to your faithful people  
and to those who turn their hearts to you.**

Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,  
that your glory may dwell in our land.

**Mercy and truth have met together;  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.**

Truth shall spring up from the earth,  
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

**O Lord, you will indeed grant prosperity,  
and our land will yield its increase.**

[Unison]

**Righteousness shall go before you,  
and peace shall be a pathway for your feet.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON      Mark 3:1-6

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

\* HYMN 413      “All Who Love and Serve Your City”

**All who love and serve your city,  
all who bear its daily stress,  
all who cry for peace and justice,  
all who curse and all who bless:**

**In your day of wealth and plenty,  
wasted work and wasted play,  
call to mind the word of Jesus,  
"You must work while it is day."**

**For all days are days of judgment,  
and the Lord is waiting still,  
drawing near a world that spurns him,  
offering peace from Calvary's hill.**

**Risen Lord, shall yet the city  
be the city of despair?**

**Come today, our judge, our glory.  
Be its name "The Lord is there!"**

\*BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE            "Praeludium" (D Major)        J.C. Kittel

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"All Who Love and Serve Your City"—Eric Routley, Words - ©1969 Stainer & Bell Ltd. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-715458. All rights reserved.

Anthem accompaniment based on a keyboard transcription by Maurizio Machella.

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. Thanks for wearing a mask in the sanctuary. Everyone is invited to Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall after worship. Masks are optional in Rockwood Hall during Coffee Hour.

**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**—The choir meets each Sunday morning at 9 a.m. sharp for a one-hour rehearsal before worship. Whether you're a long-time member or the new kid on the block, **WE WANT YOU!** Questions? Please get in touch with choral director Chris Nakielski after worship or at [cnakielski@cornellcollege.edu](mailto:cnakielski@cornellcollege.edu).

**YOUTH GROUP GATHERING!** On September 18th at 3pm-5pm our Congregational UCC youth (6th, 7th, and 8th Graders) will join First Presbyterian Church youth for the first time at Mercer Park for a "Getting to Know You" picnic. They will plan joint social and mission

gatherings supervised by parents and Anna Sheets of First Presbyterian Church for the third Sunday of every month.

**CHILDCARE FOR THE CHURCH NURSERY.** We are hiring caregivers for the church Nursery from 9-11:30 every Sunday morning. This is a paid position. Please send all inquiries to Ann Molsberry, Director of Children's Programming.

**TEE OFFERING Will Be Received This Morning.** 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.

**THE COMMUNITY CRISIS CENTER FOOD PANTRY IS VERY LOW ON FOOD.** Please pick up a grocery bag after worship this morning, fill it up, and return it to the church next Sunday. Thanks!

**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>

**INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE, TUESDAY, SEPT. 20:** Veterans for Peace, University of Iowa Center for Human Rights, Iowa Physicians for Social Responsibility, the Office of Equity & Human Rights, Peace Iowa, and Johnson County United Nations Association will mark International Day of Peace with a program at 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2022, at Mercer Park, Shelter #1. The United Nations General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples.

The International Day of Peace was established in 1981 by resolution 36/67 of the UN General Assembly to coincide with its opening session, which is held annually on the third Tuesday of

September. The first Peace Day was observed in September 1982. In 2001, the General Assembly unanimously adopted resolution 55/282, which established Sept. 21 as an annual day of non-violence and cease-fire.

The theme of this year's International Day of Peace is "End racism. Build peace." The program will include a UNA Land Proclamation, presentation of a peace pole to the park, and the Family Folk Machine: Sing Peace.

This event offers a unique opportunity to reaffirm the United Nations' commitment to the purposes and principles upon which the organization was founded. The Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace recognizes that the promotion of peace is vital for the full enjoyment of all human rights. Learn more [here](#).

**ICCSA Community Cares:** The Iowa City School District has launched a Community Cares program to support students in the district, especially to address racial discord. Volunteers have been assisting during the beginning and end of school at Northwest and South East Junior Highs. They are hoping for enough volunteers to expand the program to all 27 schools. If you are interested, they need morning greeters (8:35-9:15) and reading buddies at the Elementary schools. A three-hour racial justice training is required to participate; **the next training is September 19<sup>th</sup>, 1p to 4p.** Contact Donna Hirst [donna-hirst@uiowa.edu](mailto:donna-hirst@uiowa.edu) to facilitate your registration. A background check at <https://iowacityschools.quickleasepro.com/d/apply/64179> is required. This is an excellent opportunity to support our students and schools.

**TOM MONTGOMERY FATE AT PRAIRIE LIGHTS:** Tom Montgomery Fate, the son of former Congregational UCC members Russ and Dee Fate, will be at Prairie Lights Bookstore for a reading and conversation celebration of the release of his book [The Long Way Home: Detours and Discoveries](#) (Ice Cube Press, 2022) on Tuesday September 20, 2022 at 7:00pm. *The Long Way Home*, is a travel memoir that ventures from his small-town upbringing to vastly different cultures around the globe. Tom comes to define "home" not as a physical location, but as a way of belonging.

**SHELTER HOUSE BBQ BASH!—SEPTEMBER 23:** Join them at the Johnson County Fairgrounds on Friday, September 23 from 5:30-8:30pm. Enjoy refreshing drinks from Big Grove Brewery, delicious smoked meats prepared by Pop's BBQ, live music by The Blake Shaw Quartet, yard games, silent auction, and so much more! Tickets are on sale now at [www.shelterhouseiowa.org/bbq-bash/](http://www.shelterhouseiowa.org/bbq-bash/). \$40 for In-Person (\$15 Children).

**CENTER FOR WORKER JUSTICE 10TH ANNIVERSARY AND GALA FUNDRAISER**  
Saturday, September 24th from 5:30 PM to 9 PM. The Second Floor Ballroom of the Iowa Memorial Union. The menu for the evening will consist of Mediterranean and Jamaican cuisines. The night will also include a silent auction and musical entertainment. Tickets are available for purchase **NOW** on their website: <https://cwjiowa.salsalabs.org/gala/index.html>, or you can come into their office to purchase a hard copy with cash, check, or credit card. Center for Worker Justice of Eastern Iowa, 1556 S 1st Avenue # C, Iowa City



**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.