

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

WORSHIP FOR SEPTEMBER 20, 2020
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

“Fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you.”
Ruth Bader Ginsburg

PRELUDE “Song” Alan Ridout

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 22:2-5)

O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer;
and by night, but find no rest.

**Yet you are holy,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.**

In you our ancestors trusted;
they trusted, and you delivered them.

**To you they cried, and were saved;
in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.**

HYMN “O Worship Our God, All Glorious Above”

**O worship our God all-glorious above,
O gratefully laud God’s power and God’s love:
Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.**

**O tell of God’s might O sing of God’s grace,
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.
The chariots of heav’n the deep thunderclouds form,
And bright is God’s path on the wings of the storm.**

**Thy bountiful care, what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.**

**Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail.
Thy mercies, how tender, how firm to the end,
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!**

OPENING PRAYER

Come, searching God, and find us.

We pray for our world in danger of being lost

Lost to the horrors of human conflict

Lost to the waste of human greed

Lost to the careless ways we use this earth.

Give us courage to face our failure and limitations, and to overcome our helplessness.

Take the things that we have destroyed.

Take the brokenness of our living.

Gather around us your goodness,

and renew us and the whole creation with your saving grace; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE LESSON Jeremiah 30:18-24

PSALM 50:1-15, 23

The Lord, the God of gods, has spoken
and has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty,

God shines forth in glory.

Our God will come and will not keep silence;
before God there is a consuming flame,
and round about a raging storm.

**God calls the heavens and the earth from above
to witness the judgment of the chosen people.**

“Gather before me my loyal followers,
those who have made a covenant with me
and sealed it with sacrifice.”

**Let the heavens declare the rightness of God's cause;
for it is God who is judge.**

“I do not accuse you because of your sacrifices;
your offerings are always before me.

**I will take no bull-calf from your stalls,
nor he-goats out of your pens;**

for all the beasts of the forest are mine,
the herds in their thousands upon the hills.

**I know every bird in the sky,
and the creatures of the fields are in my sight.**

If I were hungry, I would not tell you,
for the whole world is mine and all that is in it.

**Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving
and make good your vows to the Most High.**

Call upon me in the day of trouble;
I will deliver you, and you shall honor me.

**Whoever offers me the sacrifice of thanksgiving honors me;
to those who keep in my way will I show the salvation of God."**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 7:24-27

SERMON "Earth, Wind, and Fire"

A TIME OF GRATITUDE

ANTHEM "My Worth Is Not in What I Own," arr. David Angerman
Avery Nabholz, soprano, Wen Chin Liu, alto, Colin Wilson, tenor,
Josh Ramseyer, bass, Bill Crouch, piano

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN "We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky"
**We cannot own the sunlit sky, the moon, the wild-flowers growing,
For we are part of all that is within life's river flowing.
With open hands receive and share the gifts of God's creation,
That all may have abundant life in every earthly nation.**

**When bodies shiver in the night and, weary, wait for morning,
When children have no bread but tears, and war horns sound their warning,
God calls humanity to awake, to join in common labor,
That all may have abundant life, oneness with their neighbor.**

**God calls humanity to join as partners in creating
a future free from want or fear, life's goodness celebrating.
That new world beckons from afar, invites our shared endeavor,
that all might have abundant life and peace endure forever.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "An Exultant Improvisation" Colin Mawby

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

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TEE OFFERING UPDATE. We received nearly \$800 toward our annual offering to support the Theological Education by Extension College in South Africa (TEE Offering). Thank you for your generous giving. Please note that there is still time to give if you haven't already. 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.

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

NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY IS THIS COMING TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22. It's an annual holiday and especially important this year. Find out more at <https://nationalvoterregistrationday.org/> and share this with your friends. Think. Pray. Vote.

FREE LUNCH PROGRAM NEWS: 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/1UcrZ4ya9xFir39cG_1x-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.

