



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

WORSHIP FOR SEPTEMBER 25, 2022
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

"Authentic religion according to the prophets, was not merely a matter of personal spirituality or of the ritual activity of worship. It required public dedication to principles of fairness and equity in political, judicial, and economic life."

Theodore Hiebert

PRELUDE "Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child" John Carter

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Out of the fullness of the lives God has given us
let us bring God our worship and praise.

**With thanks we offer to God the creativity of our minds,
the warmth of our hearts, and the joy of our spirits.**

We love because God has first loved us,
freeing us from the power of sin and death.

**With glad hearts let us join together in singing praise to God
who creates, redeems and sustains us.**

***HYMN 474 “O Splendor of God’s Glory Bright”**

**O splendor of God’s glory bright,
From light eternal bringing light;
Thou light of life, light’s living spring,
True day, all days illumining.**

**Come, Holy Sun of heavenly love,
Shower down Thy radiance from above,
And to our inward hearts convey
The Holy Spirit’s cloudless ray.**

**O joyful be the passing day
With thoughts as clear as morning’s ray,
With faith like noontide shining bright,
Our souls unshadowed by the night.**

**O Lord, with each returning morn
Thine image to our hearts is born;
O may we ever clearly see
Our Savior and our God in Thee!**

***OPENING PRAYER**

**Gracious God, we thank you that we can rest in you, secure amid the conflict and
confusion of life. We thank you that you provide for our needs and that you have trusted us
to one another’s care. Help us to receive with humility and to give with joy. Help us to
share what we have without fear of tomorrow. Comfort us with your presence in this place
and this time that we may be strengthened to continue to proclaim your goodness and
deliverance in all the earth; through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#474)**

**O Jesus, source of gentleness, come now, yourself our hearts possess
That we may give you all our days the willing tribute of our praise.**

ANTHEM “City Called Heaven” Josephine Poelintz

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 "O Day of God Draw Nigh" Jan Bender

*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 Habakkuk 1:1-3, 2:1-4

PSALM 37:1-9

Do not fret yourself because of evildoers;
do not be jealous of those who do wrong.

**For they shall soon wither like the grass,
and like the green grass fade away.**

Put your trust in the Lord and do good;
dwell in the land and feed on its riches.

**Take delight in the Lord,
who shall give you your heart's desire.**

Commit your way to the Lord; put your trust in the Lord,
who will bring it to pass.

**The Lord will make your righteousness as clear as the light
and your just dealing as the noonday.**

Be still before the Lord;
wait patiently for the Lord.

**Do not fret yourself over the one who prospers,
the one who succeeds in evil schemes.**

Refrain from anger, leave rage alone;
do not fret yourself; it leads only to evil.

**For evildoers shall be cut off,
but those who wait upon the Lord shall possess the land.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 18:1-8

SERMON "Minor Prophets, Major Concerns: The Silence, Answers, and Question of God"

* HYMN 452 "O Day of God Draw Nigh"

**O day of God, draw nigh
in beauty and in power;
come with your timeless judgment now
to match our present hour.**

**Bring to our troubled minds,
uncertain and afraid,
the quiet of a steadfast faith,
calm of a call obeyed.**

**Bring justice to our land,
that all may dwell secure,
and finely build for days to come
foundations that endure.**

**Bring to our world of strife
your sovereign word of peace,
that war may haunt the earth no more,
and desolation cease.**

**O day of God, draw nigh
as at creation's birth;
let there be light again,
and set your judgments on the earth.**

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE “O Splendor of God’s Glory Bright” David Cherwien

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.

CHILDCARE IN THE CHURCH NURSERY is provided for infants through children 4 years old from 9:15-11:30. Come enjoy adult education classes, adult choir rehearsal, and even teaching Sunday School!

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.

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO GAVE TO THE TEE OFFERING LAST SUNDAY. We received over \$600 to support the Theological Education by Extension College 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. **You can still give— please put “TEE” on your check or envelope.**

THANKS TO ALL WHO PROVIDED FOOD FOR THE SEPTEMBER 19 HOPE LODGE DINNER: Linda Muston, Marsha Lowe, Sue and Chuck Dayton, Ginny and Bryan Clemons, and Rebecca Weatherford. The next Hope Lodge dinner will be in November.

URGENT PLEA FROM THE JOHNSON COUNTY COMMUNITY FOOD BANK AND A WAY TO HONOR THE MEMORY OF CLAIRE ASHMAN. Our church received an urgent plea from Julia Winter, Director of Development at CommUnity for assistance with food donations, as well as monetary donations to purchase food in bulk. As you can imagine, the number of households served during these difficult times has steadily increased, as the government assistance shrinks and inflation is on the upswing. Also, HACAP's supply of bulk foods to order has decreased. Monetary gifts stretch much farther, however clients are very pleased by the random food donated which helps provide variety. Every donated food item must display a nutrition label to be offered. The Mission Board will have an ongoing donation box in Rockwood Hall, with a list of suggested items. Please consider canned protein sources, pastas, cereals, rice in small bags, boxed meal items, and personal care items. The needs change weekly. Monetary donations can be contributed on the website [Donate \(builtbycommunity.org\)](https://www.builtbycommunity.org) which also includes a printable form and address to mail a check. Needs change frequently, and Jane Kinney or Paula Forest can provide suggestions if needed.

Claire Ashman was devoted many volunteer hours to the food bank, so this will be a soulful way to honor her legacy.

UNDERSTANDING THE PROPOSED “RIGHT TO FIREARMS” AMENDMENT TO IOWA’S CONSTITUTION. As a followup to her presentation to the church on September 19, Liz O'Hara, of Moms Demand Action, encourages church members to read a short statement put out by Moms Demand Action and Everytown for Gun Safety on Public Measure 1. Public Measure 1 will appear on this November's ballot in Iowa. To obtain a copy, please see Chuck Connerly after church or email him at charles-connerly@uiowa.edu.

JCIC CANDIDATE FORUM, SAT. OCT. 15, 2:00-4:00, PURPOSE PLACE (FORMERLY THE KINGDOM CENTER) 611 Southgate Ave, Iowa City

Why Attend? 9 candidates will address current hot button issues, especially issues of concern to local low income and people of color. All 4 County Supervisor candidates, Elinor Levin/Jacob Onken for Ia House District 89, Janice Weiner for Ia Senate District 45, and Christina Bohannan for US House District 1 will attend and speak. Miller Meeks declined to attend.

Each candidate will offer prepared comments during the first hour, and from 3:00-4:00 attendees can have one-on-one discussions with the candidates. By attending you will learn about the candidates, but also support our communities of color in identifying candidates who will work to address their concerns.

Why Volunteer? Because Donna Hirst, Bea Hicks, Sally Strang, and Jane Kinney need assistance with this important event. Because it's a great way to work side by side with other members of JCIC congregations. It's a way to demonstrate solidarity with our South District and low-income communities. We're looking for folks to:

Set up 10:30-12:00 (Jane Kinney in charge)

Welcome 1:45-2:30 (then stay and listen to the candidates)

Children's activities (Bea Hicks is in charge)

Door prize table (sign people up, assist with announcing winners, listen to the candidates)

Parking assistance

Food: we're serving take home bags (after the candidates speak)

Sally Strang is enlisting volunteers to bake cookies.

Contact Donna Hirst, donna-hirst@uiowa.edu about volunteering, and contact Sally about cookies, sallystrang@mchsi.com.

THE CONSULTATION OF RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES WILL HOST ITS ANNUAL WARM WINTER WEAR DISTRIBUTION (WWWD) on October 16-22. This event will be held in the new winter shelter at the far east end of the Guide Link Center, 340 Southgate Ave, Iowa City. We are looking for donations of new or gently used outerwear for children and adults. Please begin collecting clean items and keep them at their homes until further notice. Our highest priority is: winter coats & jackets of all sizes, and other outerwear (snow pants, hats, gloves / mittens, winter scarves, warm socks & winter boots / shoes). We will also gladly accept sweaters, sweatshirts & sweatpants. Please begin collecting needed items. **Carefully presort donated items, removing anything not listed here.**

We'd appreciate donations of a box or two of large, strong lawn and leaf bags that can hold several coats for the shoppers. **We also need to borrow a dozen sturdy coat racks.**

And save the week of October 16 - 22 for volunteer opportunities as follows:

October 16 – set up & begin receiving donations (Sunday, noon - 4 p.m.)

October 17 & 18 – continue to receive donations, sort items & set up (Monday and Tuesday, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.)

October 19–21 – distribution of clothing (Wednesday - Friday: 9 a.m. - 6:p.m.).

October 22 – distribution of clothing (Saturday, 9 a.m. – noon); Clean-up, noon to 4 p.m.

Like last year, we will be requiring both volunteers and shoppers to sign up via Sign-up Genius. **For more detailed instructions and to access the Sign-up Genius for Volunteers click on:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0B49A9AE2FA20-warm1> For further questions, contact John Barr at BarrJohnO@sau.edu.



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.