

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

WORSHIP FOR SEPTEMBER 27, 2020
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

“In the face of suffering, one has no right to turn away, not to see. In the face of injustice, one may not look the other way...To watch over someone who grieves is a more urgent duty than to think of God.”

Elie Wiesel

PRELUDE “Idyll” John Marsh

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (Lamentations 3:22-23)

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
God’s mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning
great is God’s faithfulness.

HYMN “O God of Earth and Altar”

**O God of earth and altar,
Bow down and hear our cry;
Our earthly rulers falter,
Our people drift and die;
The walls of gold entomb us,
The swords of scorn divide;
Take not your thunder from us,
But take away our pride.**

**From all that terror teaches,
From lies of pen and voice,
From all the easy speeches
That make our hearts rejoice,
From sale and profanation
Of honor and the sword,
From sleep and from damnation,
Deliver us, good Lord!**

**Awaken us to action
And forge us into one,
Defying sect and faction;
O God, Your will be done!**

**Oppressive systems snare us;
Our apathies increase.
Great God, in mercy spare us
For justice and for peace!**

OPENING PRAYER

**We come to you this day, O God, as we are.
We are disturbed by the news.
We are frustrated by all that is left undone.
We are afraid of what the coming days will bring.
We are worried about people nearby and people far away.**

**We come into your presence seeking your light, your peace, and your grace. We ask you to
clear our minds so we may think
calm our hearts so we may rest
and refresh our spirits so we may meet the challenges of this coming week.**

**As we worship, grant us a sense of your love and strength that will sustain us this day and
in the days ahead. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE LESSON Lamentations 1:1a, 3:31-41

PSALM 137:1-6

By the waters of Babylon we sat down and wept,
when we remembered you, O Zion.

**On the willows there
we hung up our lyres.**

For there our captors asked us for songs,
and our tormentors ask for mirth, saying,
“Sing us one of the songs of Zion.”

How shall we sing the LORD's song in a foreign land?

If I forget you, O Jerusalem,
let my right hand forget its skill.

**Let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth
if I do not remember you,
if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Mark 2:1-12

SERMON “Lament and Good News”

A TIME OF GRATITUDE

ANTHEM “Kyrie” from *Mass in G* Franz Schubert
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 “Send Down Your Truth, O God”

**Send down your truth, O God;
Too long the shadows frown!
Too long the darkened way we’ve trod:
Your truth, O God, send down.**

**Send down your Spirit free,
Till wilderness and town
One temple for your worship be:
Your Spirit, O send down.**

**Send down your love, your life,
Our lesser lives to crown,
And cleanse them of their hate and strife:
Your living love send down.**

**Send down your peace, O Lord,
Earth’s bitter voices drown
In one deep ocean of accord:
Your peace, O God, send down.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Fanfare with Promenade” Rosalie Bonighton

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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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

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>

WINTER CLOTHING DISTRIBUTION: This year's Winter Clothing Distribution (WCD) will be conducted over a period of several weeks (September 28 – November 21) at the old “CarQuest” Building, 821 South Clinton Street, Iowa City (NW corner of Clinton & Benton Streets).

Donations are Needed: WARM Clothing in good condition – new, or gently used and clean, for all ages. **Winter Outerwear** is our focus: Coats, hats, scarves, mittens or gloves, snow pants, and winter boots. We will also accept warm sweaters, sweatshirts, sweatpants. PLEASE carefully review your items before dropping them off. We will NOT be accepting Halloween costumes this year

Items in bags or boxes should be dropped off by organizations or individuals at the back (west) door, adjacent to the large parking lot, October 1-9, from 10:00 a.m. until 4 p.m. (Note: on Saturday the 3rd, we will close at 2 p.m.)

Volunteers are Needed to: set-up; receive, sort, and organize clothing; escort family representatives selecting clothing; and clean up during this event, using four two-hour shifts (generally from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.). The sign-up for days / times will be done via Sign-Up Genius. You will be notified when this is ready for use.

Distribution of clothing will begin on Monday, October 12. The facility will be closed October 26 through November 3.

Various safety precautions are being taken in light of COVID-19. During the distribution of clothing, only one adult representative from three families will be admitted each half-hour to select clothing items with a physically distanced volunteer escort.

To help ensure your safety:

1. Assure that you are in good health and have not been exposed to COVID-19.

2. Bring your own multi-layer face mask. If one is not available, we will provide one.
3. Upon arrival, we will conduct a brief health status survey and perform a non-invasive check of your body temperature.
4. If you are going to escort the family representative who is shopping (October 12th through November 20th), also bring a face shield. If one is not available, we will provide one onsite. Non-latex gloves will also be provided.
5. Approved hand sanitizer will be available onsite.
6. Restrooms, for volunteers only, will be cleaned regularly.

For further questions, please contact WCD co-chairs John Barr (barrjohno@sau.edu) or Carolyn Otis (carolyn.otis@gmail.com)

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 will be financially empowering Pakistani women by hosting their 4th Annual Fair Trade Rug Event October 7-11 at the Iowa River Landing, Ste 110. Approximately 300 rugs, each handmade in Pakistani homes by fairly paid adult artisans, will be available in a variety of unique designs and sizes ranging from 2' x 3' to 10' x 14' and runners. Wed-Sat 10 am-7 pm, Sun 11 am-5 pm

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.



“How lonely sits the city!”

Lamentations 1:1