



Jonah—Sistine Chapel

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

WORSHIP FOR SEPTEMBER 4, 2022
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Today is a communion Sunday. If you are joining us online, before the worship service you are invited to assemble what you will eat and what you will drink. It can be bread and grape juice or wine or something as simple as a cracker or rice cake and water for use in our worship.

“The persistence of God wears down resistance.”

Phyllis Tribble

PRELUDE “How Lovely, Lord” Michael Burkhardt

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Blessed is the name of God
from this time on and forevermore.

**From the rising of the sun to its setting
the name of God is to be praised.**

It is good to give thanks to God,
to sing praises to your name, O Most High;
**to declare your steadfast love in the morning,
and your faithfulness by night.**

HYMN 207 “How Lovely, Lord”

**How lovely, Lord, how lovely
is your abiding place;
my soul is longing, fainting,
to feast upon your grace.
The sparrow finds a shelter,
a place to build her nest,
and so your temple calls us
with in its walls to rest.**

**In your blest courts to worship,
O God, a single day
is better than a thousand
if I from you should stray.
I’d rather keep the entrance
and claim you as my Lord
than revel in the riches
the ways of sin afford.**

**A sun and shield forever
are you, O Lord Most High;
you shower us with blessings;
no good will you deny.
The saints, your grace receiving,
from strength to strength shall go,
and from their life shall rivers
of blessing overflow.**

OPENING PRAYER

**Creator God, out of your abundance you have given us skills and time to use both for our
own good and for the good of the world.**

**By your grace, help us to set aside our worries about tomorrow so that we might enter into
your rest.**

**In your compassion, strengthen us to work for those things that satisfy so that we might
enjoy the fruit of our labor.**

Nourish us with the bread of life and the cup of wholeness. Give us the confidence that in you our labor is not in vain; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

DUET “It Is Well with My Soul” arr. Marianne Kim
 Tim Strang & Bill Crouch, piano

SERVICE OF GIVING

Invitation

Offertory “How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord – Charles Callahan

*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

SCRIPTURE LESSON Jonah 3:1-10

THE PRAYER OF JONAH (Jonah 2:2-9)

I called to the Lord out of my distress,
and God answered me;

**out of the belly of Sheol I cried,
and you heard my voice.**

You cast me into the deep,
into the heart of the seas,
and the flood surrounded me;

**all your waves and your billows
passed over me.**

Then I said, “I am driven away from your sight;
how shall I look again upon your holy temple?”

**The waters closed in over me;
the deep surrounded me;
weeds were wrapped around my head
at the roots of the mountains.**

I went down to the land whose bars closed upon me forever;
yet you brought up my life from the Pit, O Lord my God.

**As my life was ebbing away,
I remembered the Lord;
and my prayer came to you, into your holy temple.**

Those who worship vain idols
forsake their true loyalty.

**But I with the voice of thanksgiving
will sacrifice to you;
what I have vowed I will pay.
Deliverance belongs to the Lord!”**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Jonah 4:1-11

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

THE LORD’S SUPPER

INVITATION

HYMN 305 “Jesus, Our Divine Companion”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

THANKSGIVING FOR BREAD AND CUP

Let us join together in prayer:

**We thank you, O Christ,
that scattered though we are, with different needs and hopes
you call us together at this meal and unite us as one body.**

**We thank you for this bread and cup set before us,
food and drink to nourish us in body and in spirit,
signs of your life-giving love.**

**May they speak to us
of the everyday made holy,
of life made new,
of hope for your realm among us.**

We remember that on the night of his arrest...

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Loving God, we give you thanks that you have nourished us at this table. Send us into our work with new resolve. Help us to work out the problems that have perplexed us, and to serve the people we encounter. May we see our work as a part of your great purpose and find significance in what we do. May we bring our creativity, energy, intelligence, imagination, and love to all our tasks and so give our hearts, minds, and wills to your glory; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

* HYMN 419 “How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord”

**How clear is our vocation, Lord,
When once we heed Your call:
To live according to Your word,
And daily learn, refreshed, restored,**

**That You are Lord of all
And will not let us fall.**

**But if, forgetful, we should find
Your yoke is hard to bear,
If worldly pressures fray the mind
And love itself cannot unwind
Its tangled skein of care:
Our inward life repair.**

**We mark Your saints, how they became
In hindrances more sure,
Whose joyful virtues put to shame
The casual way we wear Your name,
And by our faults obscure
Your power to cleanse and cure.**

**In what You give us, Lord, to do,
Together or alone,
In old routines or ventures new,
May we not cease to look to You--
The cross You hung upon--
All You endeavored done.**

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE "March" Flor Peeters

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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. Masks are required for all people in all parts of the building. We will keep social distance in the pews. Everyone is invited to Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall after worship. Masks are optional in Rockwood Hall during Coffee Hour.

THANKS TO BILL CROUCH AND TIM STRANG for their duet this morning.

A NEW MEMBER CLASS start this week. If you are interested in joining Congregational UCC or would like more information about us, we invite you to attend these sessions. For more information, please talk with Bill Lovin or call the church office, 337-4301.

THERE'S STILL TIME TO JOIN THE NEW BIBLE STUDY: Bill is leading a Zoom Bible study looking at Paul's letter to the Romans. Together we are exploring some of the theological depths of this book that is the longest, the weightiest, and the most substantial of all of Paul's correspondence. Stronger fare than usual for the summer, to be sure! The sessions are informal and no previous knowledge of the specific book or the Bible in general is needed. If you are interested, call Bill at 319-337-4301 or email him at uccicrev@uccic.org and he'll send you the Zoom invitation. We will meet on Wednesday evening from 7:00- 8:30.

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—Come one, come all, choristers! Our volunteer choir begins its season with a "round-up" rehearsal on Wednesday, 9/7 from 7-9 p.m. From there we meet each Sunday morning at 9 a.m. sharp for a one-hour rehearsal before the service. We officially begin our melodious choral season on Sunday, 9/11. Whether you're a long-time member or the new kid on the block, WE WANT YOU! The UCC choir is a wonderful group of people who work hard at making great music; you'll be sure to enjoy this experience. Questions? Please get in touch with choral director Chris Nakielski at cnakielski@cornellcollege.edu.

RALLY DAY IS September 11, 2022 at 9:15! We want to introduce you to our new Children's Choir Director Majesty Constable! (Children's Choir is for Preschool-8th grade and will meet during Children's Church 10:30-11 during worship during the school year. They will prepare music for worship on the last Sunday of each month.) AND...Come participate in a Scavenger Hunt! Breakfast will be served! 3-8th graders can sign-up to be an Acolytes!

Every Third Sunday of the Month (3-5pm) 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. If you know of a college-age or older adult

looking for a little extra income this is a no-brainer! Please send all inquiries to Ann Molsberry, Director of Children's Programming.

TEE OFFERING Will Be Received on September 18. 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. Please plan to give generously—our support makes a difference.

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>

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.

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 19th, 1p to 4p.** Contact Donna Hirst 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.



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.