



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

Today is a communion Sunday. Before joining the worship service, you are invited to get whatever you eat and whatever you drink. It can be bread and grape juice or wine or as simple as a cracker or rice cake and water for use in our worship.

WORSHIP FOR SEPTEMBER 5, 2021  
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

“We too are recipients of divine instruction, a people called to continual renewal and reinterpretation of God’s word among us. That word is alive and ever new in the power of the Spirit among us.”

Kathleen O’Connor

PRELUDE “Fugue” from *Voluntary in C* - Anonymous (18th C.)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

The heavens proclaim the glory of God  
and the earth shows the work of God’s hands.

**In late-summer abundance  
we delight in the beauty of the earth.**

Let the goodness of God be upon us  
and give success to the work of our hands.

**Give success, O God, to the work of our hands.**

HYMN            "O Day of Radiant Gladness"

**O day of radiant gladness, O day of joy and light,  
O balm of care and sadness, most beautiful, most bright;  
This day the high and lowly, through ages joined in tune,  
sing "Holy, holy, holy" to the great God Triune.**

**This day at the creation the light first had its birth;  
This day for our salvation Christ rose from depths of earth;  
This day our Lord, victorious the Spirit sent from heaven,  
And thus this day most glorious a triple light was given.**

**This day God's people meeting, the Holy Scripture hear;  
Christ's living presence greeting, through bread and wine made near.  
We journey on, believing, renewed with heavenly might,  
From grace more grace receiving on this blessed day of light.**

**That light our hope sustaining, we walk the pilgrim way,  
At length our rest attaining, our endless Sabbath day.  
We sing to you our praises, our Hope, our Joy, our Sun:  
the church its voice upraises to you blessed Three in One.**

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.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON        Nehemiah 7:73b-8:3, 8-12

PSALM 90:1-6, 13-17

Lord, you have been our refuge  
from one generation to another.

**Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or the land and the earth were born,  
from age to age you are God.**

You turn us back to the dust and say,  
"Go back, O child of earth."

**For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past  
and like a watch in the night.**

You sweep us away like a dream;  
we fade away suddenly like the grass.

**In the morning it is green and flourishes;  
in the evening it is dried up and withered.**

Return, O Lord; how long will you tarry?  
be gracious to your servants.

**Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;**

**so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.**  
Make us glad by the measure of the days that you afflicted us  
and the years in which we suffered adversity.

**Show your servants your works  
and your splendor to their children.**

[Unison]

**May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us;  
prosper the work of our hands;  
prosper our handiwork.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON      Matthew 5:17-20

SERMON      “Returning: Judgment and Grace”

A TIME OF GRATITUDE

SOLO      "Domine Deus" from Vivaldi's *Gloria*  
Avery Nabholz

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION

HYMN      “Jesus Our Divine Companion”

**Jesus, our divine companion,  
By your lowly human birth  
You have come to join the workers,  
Burden bearers of the earth.  
You, the carpenter of Nazareth,  
Toiling for your daily food,  
By your patience and your courage,  
You have taught us work is good.**

**Where the many toil together,  
There you are among your own;  
Where the solitary labor,  
You are there with them alone.  
You, the peace that passes knowledge,  
Dwelling in the daily strife;  
You, the Bread of heaven are broken  
In the sacrament of life.**

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            “For the Fruit of All Creation”  
**For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God;  
for the gifts of every nation, thanks be to God;  
for the ploughing, sowing, reaping,  
silent growth while we are sleeping,  
future needs in earth's safe-keeping, thanks be to God.**

**In the just reward of labor, God's will is done;  
in the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done;  
in our world-wide task of caring  
for the hungry and despairing,  
in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.**

**For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God;  
for the good we all inherit, thanks be to God;  
for the wonders that astound us,  
for the truths that still confound us,  
most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE    “Spiritoso” from *Voluntary in C* - Anonymous (18th C.)

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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

Thanks to Avery Nabholz for singing this morning.

**RECORDINGS OF THE WORSHIP SERVICES** are posted by 10:15 on Sunday morning 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.

### **REOPENING NEWS:**

Putting the safety of both the vaccinated and the unvaccinated in our congregation and the community first, **we have set Sunday, September 12, the first Sunday after Labor Day, as the date to resume in-person worship.** Masks will be required for all worshippers. We will keep social distance in the pews. The choir will sing, but there will be no congregational singing. There will be no coffee hour, although people are encouraged to talk with one another outside after worship. Those who are ready and feel comfortable with these arrangements are invited to join us in person.

While it won't happen next Sunday, as we are still working out some of the technical issues, our plan is to begin live-streaming the worship services, so that you can still join us online—and in real time—if that is your choice. Next Sunday, and for a few more upcoming Sundays, our worship services will be posted online later in the afternoon. And all of the worship services will be online permanently for viewing at other times.

**FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP SERVICES**—If you would like to contribute flowers for the worship services on upcoming Sundays please call the office to let Jenn know or sign up on the sheet in Rockwood Hall.

**TEE OFFERING Will Be Received on September 19:** Our annual offering to support the Theological Education by Extension College in South Africa (TEE Offering) will be received during worship on Sunday, September 19. 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 Johnson County Interfaith Coalition (JCIC) is hosting two October candidate forums** at the Kingdom Center: Oct. 2 for the School Board and Oct. 16 for City Council. We are planning to have translators and sack lunches for attendees to take when they leave. Various JCIC congregations have been hit hard by COVID, so we are requesting special donations from individuals within our JCIC churches to assist with the forum expenses. We are hoping you can assist us in making these October events a success by contributing \$50 or \$25. More would be wonderful, and any amount would be helpful. If you are able to assist, send a check to: Johnson County Interfaith Coalition

Bea Hicks, Treasurer  
PO Box 966  
Iowa City, IA 52240

Put "2021 Candidate Forums" in the Memo Line.

**The Consultation of Religious Communities is delighted to announce that they are able to once again host the warm winterwear distribution.** It will be held in the new winter shelter at the far east end of the Guide Link Center at 340 Southgate Ave, Iowa City.

They are looking for donations of new or gently used outerwear for children and adults. You can begin collecting clean items and keep them at home until further notice. Their highest priority is: winter coats & jackets of all sizes, and other outerwear (snow pants, hats, gloves / mittens, winter scarves, warm socks & winter boots). They will also gladly accept sweaters, sweatshirts & sweatpants. PLEASE carefully presort donated items, to remove items not listed here. Also, consider donating a box or two of large, strong trash bags (e.g., 33 gallon, with ties) that will hold several coats for the shoppers.

More information will be available by mid-September. But for now, please begin collecting needed items. And save the week of October 18 - 23 for volunteer opportunities.

**FAN CLUB UPDATE FROM COMMUNITY CRISIS CENTER:** We set out to distribute 700 box fans to local households this summer through the CommUnity Fan Club. Box fans help keep our neighbors cool and reduce the cost of utilities during the hot summer months. Thanks to the support of individuals and the Congregational United Church of Christ's matching gift, we **distributed fans to a total of 750 households! Thank you for your support!**