

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 6, 2020  
FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

“To live well is to work well, or display a good activity”

Thomas Aquinas

PRELUDE            “Song”            Flor Peeters

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            “Come Sing to God”

**Come sing to God, O living saints,  
Sing praises to God's name.  
God's anger is not permanent,  
God's love will never wane.  
Though tears may tarry for the night  
With sighs of deepest pain,  
Yet joy comes with the morning sun,  
A peace that is not vain.**

**In my success I felt secure.  
How good You've been to me.  
I said that this is my own work,  
Ascribing all to me.  
But when You turned aside Your face,  
My life was filled with fears.  
I begged for help, to You I cried  
With loud and bitter tears.**

What good is gained by my disgrace  
What profit in defeat?  
My grave cannot confess Your name,  
Nor praise for You repeat.  
Now hear, O Lord, my plaintive cry;  
Be merciful to me.  
Accept my longing heart's request  
And from death set me free.

You change my grief to joy-filled dance,  
My sorrows You destroy.  
In faithfulness You hear my cry  
And fill my life with joy.  
And so to You my heart shall sing,  
My voice Your goodness raise.  
You are my God, forevermore,  
My life shall sing Your praise.

#### 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      Isaiah 55:1-3

#### PSALM 145

I will exalt you, O God my Sovereign,  
and bless your name forever and ever.

**Every day will I bless you  
and praise your name forever and ever.**

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;  
there is no end to your greatness.

**One generation shall praise your works to another  
and shall declare your power.**

I will ponder the glorious splendor of your majesty  
and all your marvelous works.

**They shall speak of the might of your wondrous acts,  
and I will tell of your greatness.**

They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;  
they shall sing of your righteous deeds.

**The Lord is gracious and full of compassion,  
slow to anger and of great kindness.**

O Lord, you are loving to everyone,  
and your compassion is over all your works.

**All your works praise you, O Lord,  
and your faithful servants bless you.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON      John 6:25-35

SERMON      “Work and Vocation in the Pandemic”

A TIME OF GRATITUDE

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.**

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION

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

SOLO            "Spirit of God"  
                  Robert Kemp, soloist

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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            "Allegro maestoso"   Flor Peeters

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

Special thanks to Robbie Kemp for singing during our worship today.

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Jesus, Our Divine Companion - Richard T Proulx, Music - ©1986 GIA Publications, Inc.  
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**Congregational UCC member and Director of the UI School of Planning and Public Affairs, Chuck Connerly**, will be speaking about a chapter from his new book this coming Thursday, September 10 at the Iowa City Foreign Relations Council meeting. All FRC meetings are done via Zoom. To register so that you can join the meeting, please use this link:  
<https://www.icfrc.org/programs/why-is-iowa-so-white>

**BREAD FOR THE WORLD—VIRTUAL OFFERING OF LETTERS:** This coming Tuesday, September 8, at 7:00 p.m., Steve Panther will lead us in a Zoom meeting to write letters about hunger policy to US legislators. We have participated in this effort for several years. This year the event will be online, but it is as important as ever. You can join the Zoom meeting with this link:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78154180889?pwd=UUZoaVoxZStwellNSUsyM1d3Tlp0UT09>

Meeting ID: 781 5418 0889

Passcode: VYpD7G

**TEE OFFERING Will Be Received on September 13:** Our annual offering to support the Theological Education by Extension College in South Africa (TEE Offering) will be received during worship on Sunday, September 13. 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.

**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](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1UcrZ4ya9xFir39cG_1x-SCO6dVPBbV0B?usp=sharing)

**DONATION STATEMENTS FOR JANUARY THROUGH JUNE 2020 ARE NOW AVAILABLE.** If you would like a copy please let Nan Martin know by emailing her at [uccicgiving@uccic.org](mailto:uccicgiving@uccic.org) or leaving a message on the office line (337-4301). She can email a copy or put a paper copy in the mail, if you would prefer.

**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](mailto: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](#).

The Consultation of Religious Congregations (CRC) is forming a Racism Education Work Group to compile resources and provide assistance to faith communities as they begin to tackle the tasks spelled out in the CRC Statement on Racism & Current Events. If you are interested in serving in the work group or would like more information, please contact Mark Martin at [pastormwm@gmail.com](mailto:pastormwm@gmail.com) or 319-330-3030.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:wendellm1951@gmail.com).

