

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

WORSHIP FOR JANUARY 10, 2021

Today is a communion Sunday. Before joining 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 as simple as a cracker or rice cake and water for use in our worship.

“Let us stop talking falsely now, the hour is getting late.”

Bob Dylan

PRELUDE Prelude in A Major, Op. 48 No. 4 Josef Renner

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

How precious is the steadfast love of God.

All people may take refuge in the shadow of God’s embrace.

In Christ we behold the light of God.

Come, let us worship the God of mercy,

That we might become the people God is calling us to be.

HYMN “Hope of the World” (Music can be viewed [here](#).)

**Hope of the world, thou Christ of great compassion,
speak to our fearful hearts by conflict rent.**

**Save us, thy people, from consuming passion,
who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.**

**Hope of the world, God's gift from highest heaven,
bringing to hungry souls the bread of life,
still let thy Spirit unto us be given
to heal earth's wounds and end her bitter strife.**

**Hope of the world, afoot on dusty highways,
showing to wandering souls the path of light;
walk thou beside us, lest the tempting byways
lure us away from thee to endless night.**

**Hope of the world, who by thy cross didst save us
from death and dark despair, from sin and guilt;
we render back the love thy mercy gave us;
take thou our lives, and use them as thou wilt.**

**Hope of the world, O Christ, o'er death victorious,
Who by this sign did conquer grief and pain,
We would be faithful to Thy gospel glorious;
Thou art our Lord! Thou dost forever reign!**

OPENING PRAYER

We are a people entangled in many crises, O God. Help us to find our way out of this maze of anger, confusion, fear, and dread. Light the path that will guide us. Lead us by the wellsprings that will calm us. Nourish us with the bread that will sustain us in our hope for the future. Let us walk humbly with you, speaking with courage, acting with compassion and using your gifts of reason and common sense to make our way forward. Guide us past mistaken turns and dead ends and bring us into an open and broad place where we can see beyond ourselves to our common humanity and the vision of well-being you have for your whole creation. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 59:9-15a

PSALM 5

Give ear to my words, O Lord;
consider my meditation.

**Hearken to my cry for help, my Sovereign and my God,
for I make my prayer to you.**

In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice;
early in the morning I make my appeal and watch for you.

**For you are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness,
and evil cannot dwell with you.**

Braggarts cannot stand in your sight;
you hate all those who work wickedness.

**You destroy those who speak lies;
the bloodthirsty and deceitful, O Lord, you abhor.**

But as for me, through the greatness of your mercy I will go into your house;
I will bow down toward your holy temple in awe of you.

**Lead me, O Lord, in your righteousness,
because of those who lie in wait for me;
make your way straight before me.**

For there is no truth in their mouth;
there is destruction in their heart;

**their throat is an open grave;
they flatter with their tongue.**

Declare them guilty, O God;
let them fall, because of their schemes.

**Because of their many transgressions cast them out,
for they have rebelled against you.**

But all who take refuge in you will be glad;
they will sing out their joy forever.

**You will shelter them,
so that those who love your name may exult in you.**

[Unison]

**For you, O Lord, will bless the righteous;
you will defend them with your favor as with a shield.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON John 1:19-34

SERMON “Unarmed Truth”

TIME OF GRATITUDE

DUET “O for a Closer Walk with God” C.V. Stanford
 Kristin Ramseyer, Wen Chin Liu, Colin Wilson, Josh Ramseyer

THE LORD’S SUPPER

INVITATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

THANKSGIVING FOR BREAD AND CUP

**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

HYMN “Deck Yourself, My Soul, with Gladness”
 (Music can be viewed [here.](#))

**Deck yourself, my soul, with gladness,
Leave behind all gloom and sadness;
Come into the daylight’s splendor,
There with joy your praises render**

**Unto God, Whose grace unbounded
Has this wondrous banquet founded;
Come, for now the Lord most holy
Stoops to you in likeness lowly.**

**Sun, who all my life does brighten;
Light, who does my soul enlighten;
Joy, your wondrous gift bestowing;
Fount, from which all good is flowing;
At Your feet I cry, my Maker,
Let me be a fit partaker
Of this blessed food from heaven,
For our good, Your glory given.**

**Jesus, source of Life and pleasure,
Truest friend and dearest treasure,
By Your love I am invited,
Be Your love with love requited.
From this banquet let me measure,
Lord, how vast and deep its treasure;
Through the gifts that here You give me
As Your guest in heaven receive me.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks, eternal God, for this meal shared in your Spirit. Illumine our hearts with the radiance of Christ's presence, that our lives may show forth his love in this weary world. Teach us to befriend the lost, to serve the poor, to reconcile our enemies, and to love our neighbors. Amen.

HYMN "Arise, Your Light Has Come!"

**Arise, your light has come!
The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God
which shines on you today.**

**Arise, your light has come!
Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captive's liberty,
good tidings to the poor.**

**Arise, your light has come!
All you in sorrow born,
bind up the brokenhearted ones
and comfort those who mourn.**

**Arise, your light has come!
The mountains burst in song!**

**Rise up like eagles on the wing,
God's power will make us strong.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Fanfare Arthur Bliss

“Hope of the World” Georgia Harkness, Words - ©1954, 1982 Hymn Society in the US & Canada, Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-715458. All rights reserved.
“Arise, Your Light is Come!” Ruth Duck, Words - ©1992 GIA Publications, Inc. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-715458. All rights reserved.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION OF THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC OF IOWA CITY will be held by Zoom at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, January 31, 2021. We will receive reports of Boards and Committees, vote on the budget for 2021, vote on proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws of the congregation, and transact any other business that is fitting and necessary.

In January and February Bill Lovin will be leading a four-week series looking at Paul's letter to the Philippians. Paul wrote this letter from prison and did not know what his fate would be. Although Paul was suffering and writing out of uncertainty, a sense of joy comes through in this letter. It seems to me that this letter might speak to us in these uncertain days. We'll gather by Zoom at 7:00 on Wednesday evenings, beginning this coming Wednesday, January 13, looking at one chapter of this book each week. If you are interested in being a part of this study, please let Bill know by calling him at the church (337-4301) or sending an email to him 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/1UcrZ4ya9xFir39cG_lx-SCO6dVPBbV0B?usp=sharing