



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

WORSHIP FOR JANUARY 24, 2021
THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

“Now comes the winter and buried as seed the springtime of the soul and the promise of new life and the wing of the Spirit. Now comes the winter and we know what it is to be lonely and feel blue—and the weeping and rejoicing in our cities—and the suffering that wounds us all. Now comes the winter and with it the Lord of the winter. Now comes the winter and all is well.”

Edmund Jones

PRELUDE Trio in D Major - John Marsh

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

O sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.

**Sing to the Lord, bless God's name;
tell of God's salvation from day to day.**

Declare God's glory among the nations,
God's marvelous works among all peoples.

**For great is the Lord,
and greatly to be praised.**

HYMN "All My Hope on God is Founded"

MICHAEL 87 87 33 7

HERBERT HOWELLS 1892-1983

Unison

The musical score is presented in three systems, each with a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The first system is labeled 'Unison'. The music is written in a key with one flat (B-flat major or D minor) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is primarily in the treble clef, while the bass clef provides a simple accompaniment. The piece concludes with a final cadence in the third system.

**All my hope on God is founded,
who does still my trust renew.
Safe through change and chance God guides me,
only good and only true.
God unknown, One alone
seeks to claim my heart as home.**

**Day by day the almighty giver
bounteous gifts on us bestows
with delight our souls are nourished,
pleasure leads us where we go.
Love does stand at God's hand;
joy awaits each new command.**

**Still from earth to God eternal
hymns of grateful praise be sung,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ made known.
Hear Christ's call one and all;
those who follow shall not fall.**

OPENING PRAYER

O God, distant yet near, be among us this day. Hear again the confessions and longings of our hearts. Help us change the narrowness of our vision and the pettiness of our living. Make us new again with your grace.

Grant us the maturity to accept your many gifts in humility and to use them with faithfulness. Grant to us your Spirit that our worship may have integrity and energy, that each day we might live before you in faith, hope, and love.

We praise and give thanks to you, Eternal Presence; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 9:1-4

PSALM 62:5-12

For God alone my soul in silence waits;
truly, my hope is in God.

**God alone is my rock and my salvation,
my stronghold, so that I shall not be shaken.**

In God is my safety and my honor;
God is my strong rock and my refuge.

**Put your trust in God always, O people,
pour out your hearts before God, who is our refuge.**

Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath,
even those of low estate cannot be trusted.

**On the scales they are lighter than a breath,
all of them together.**

Put no trust in extortion;
in robbery take no empty pride;

though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.

God has spoken once, twice have I heard it,
that power belongs to God.

**Steadfast love is yours, O Lord,
for you repay all people according to their deeds.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Mark 1:14-20

SERMON “Call as Interruption”

READING “He Comes to Us” Albert Schweitzer

He comes to us as One unknown, without a name,
as of old, by the lakeside, He came to those who knew Him not.

**He speaks to us the same words: "Follow thou me!"
and sets us to the tasks which He has to fulfill for our time.**

He commands.

**And to those who obey Him, whether they be wise or simple,
He will reveal himself in the toils, the conflicts, the sufferings which they shall pass
through in His fellowship,**

and, as an ineffable mystery,

they shall learn in their own experience Who He is.”

TIME OF GRATITUDE

ANTHEM "Follow Me to Jordan" by Jay Althouse
Virtual Choir

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN “God of Change and Glory”

(You can view and download a copy of the words and music of this hymn [here](#).)

**God of change and glory, God of time and space,
When we fear the future, give to us your grace.
In the midst of changing ways give us still the grace to praise.**

Refrain:

**Many gifts, one Spirit, one love known in many ways.
In our difference is blessing, from diversity we praise
One Giver, one Lord, one Spirit, one Word
Known in many ways, hallowing our days.
For the Giver, for the gifts, praise, praise, praise!**

**God of many colors, God of many signs,
You have made us different, blessing many kinds.
As the old ways disappear, let your love cast out our fear. [Refrain]**

**Freshness of the morning, newness of each night,
You are still creating endless love and light.
This we see, as shadows part, many gifts from one great heart. [Refrain]**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Voluntary in C Major - William Boyce

“Calling Disciples” by He Qi, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=> [retrieved January 22, 2021]

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

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.

The Bible study of Paul's letter to the Philippians continues this Wednesday. 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 gather by Zoom at 7:00 on Wednesday evenings, looking at one chapter of this book each week. This Wednesday we’ll look at chapter 3. 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_1x-SCO6dVPBbV0B?usp=sharing

FREE VIRTUAL FILM SCREENING: JOHN LEWIS: GOOD TROUBLE—The Iowa City Beloved Community Initiative gives everyone a chance to see this movie online.

An intimate account of legendary U.S. Representative John Lewis' life, legacy and more than 60 years of extraordinary activism — from the bold teenager on the front lines of the Civil Rights movement to the legislative powerhouse he was throughout his career. After Lewis petitioned Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to help integrate a segregated school in his hometown of Troy, Alabama, King sent “the boy from Troy” a round trip bus ticket to meet with him. From that meeting onward, Lewis became one of King’s closest allies. He organized Freedom Rides that left him bloodied or jailed, and stood at the front lines in the historic marches on Washington and Selma. He never lost the spirit of the “boy from Troy” and called on his fellow Americans to get into “good trouble” until his passing on July 17, 2020.

This film will be available to stream Jan. 15–30 for free. Click here for the [Streaming Link](#)

UI Lecture Committee announces the Cassandra S. Foens M.D. 2021 Lecture to be held on Tuesday Feb 16 at 7:00 pm. The title will be: "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks": A Discussion on Race and Medical Ethics

Henrietta Lacks was a young Black woman who was treated at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in the early 1950's for an aggressive case of cancer. At the time of surgery, a Hopkins physician/scientist used cells from her tumor to create an immortalized cell line (designated as HeLa cells) which has been widely used in research over the years. This use of her tissue was done without her consent. The case received wide attention in recent years due to the publication of the book "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks", written by Rebecca Skloot.

The lecture committee has invited two members of the Lacks family to come and serve as a panel. Congregational UCC member, Dr. Andy Bertolatus, will serve as moderator. This will be a virtual lecture - it will be livestreamed at <https://lectures.uiowa.edu/live/>. It will also be recorded and made available after the livestream.