



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

WORSHIP FOR OCTOBER 17, 2021
TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

“Hope means hoping when things are hopeless, or it is no virtue at all...As long as matters are really hopeful, hope is merely flattery or platitude; it is only when everything is hopeless that hope begins to be a strength.”

G.K. Chesterton

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

From the deepest places in our lives, we cry to God:

“God hear my voice, do not be far from me.”

Let us not forget God’s steadfast love and power to redeem.

We wait for God, and in God’s Word we find hope.

HYMN 288 “I Sing the Mighty Power of God”

**I sing the mighty power of God
That made the mountains rise;
That spread the flowing seas abroad
And built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained
The sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at God’s command,
And all the stars obey.**

**I sing the goodness of the Lord
That filled the earth with food;
God formed the creatures with a word
And then pronounced them good.
Lord, how Thy wonders are displayed,
Where’er I turn my eyes;
If I survey the ground I tread,
Or gaze upon the skies!**

**There’s not a plant or flower below
But makes Thy glories known;
And clouds arise, and tempests blow,
By order from Thy throne;
While all that borrows life from Thee
Is ever in Thy care,
And everywhere that we can be,
Thou, God, art present there.**

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.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Jeremiah 29:10-14

PSALM 130

**Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord;
Lord, hear my voice;
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.
If you, Lord, were to note what is done amiss,**

O Lord, who could stand?

For there is forgiveness with you;
therefore you shall be revered.

**I wait for you, O Lord; my soul waits for you;
in your word is my hope.**

My soul waits for the Lord,
more than those who watch by night long for the morning,
more than those who watch by night long for the morning.

**Wait in hope for the Lord,
for with the Lord there is mercy;**

[Unison]

**there is ample redemption with the Lord,
who shall redeem you from all your sins.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Romans 5:1-11

SERMON “Getting to Hope”

TIME OF GRATITUDE

ANTHEM “Follow Me to Jordan” Jay Althouse

TIME OF PRAYER

Prayers of the People

Silent Prayer

The Prayer of Our Savior

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Choral Response

HYMN 261 “God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us”

**God of compassion, in mercy befriend us;
Giver of grace for our needs all availing,
Wisdom and strength for each day do Thou send us,
Patience untiring and courage unfailing.**

**Wandering and lost, Thou hast sought us and found us,
Stilled our rude hearts with Thy Word of consoling;
Wrap now Thy peace, like a mantle, around us,
Guarding our thoughts and our passions controlling.**

**How shall we stray, with Thy hand to direct us,
Thou who the stars in their courses art guiding?**

**What shall we fear, with Thy power to protect us,
We who walk forth in Thy greatness confiding?**

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE “

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

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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. The choir will sing, but there will be no congregational singing. There will be no coffee hour, although you are encouraged to talk with one another outside after worship.

RECORDINGS OF THE WORSHIP SERVICES are posted on Sunday afternoon 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. We expect to be livestreaming the worship service in a few weeks.

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.



Want to give online? Scan the QR code for our giving app.

A NEW BIBLE STUDY OF THE LETTER OF JAMES has started. Bill is leading this five session series on Zoom, looking at one chapter each week, on Wednesday evenings at 7:00. This coming Wednesday we will focus on chapter 3. If you would like to be a part of this study and to

receive the Zoom invitation, please talk with Bill, call him at the church (337-4301), or send him an email at uccicrev@uccic.org.

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO GAVE TO THE CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

OFFERING. We received \$1760 from our congregation. This will be combined with \$900 from our Mission Board's discretionary funds. This money will be used by Church World Service, to assist with disaster relief (Hurricane Ida and the earthquake in Haiti) as well as refugee aid (Afghanistan). You can still give. Please make your check out to Congregational UCC and put CWS in the memo line. You can find out more about the work that CWS is doing in response to Hurricane Ida [here](#). Information about earthquake response is [here](#). And information about the work of CWS to support refugees from Afghanistan is [here](#).

GIVING UPDATES AVAILABLE: If you have any questions about your giving to the church or if you would like an update on your giving, please call the church office (337-4301) or email our Office Manager, Jenn Harden at uccicadmin@uccic.org.

RUN FOR THE SCHOOLS—SUNDAY OCTOBER 24

As we return to in-person worship, we once again need to navigate the challenges presented by downtown events. The 46th Annual Run for the Schools will be held on October 24. Some streets to the south and east of the church will be closed. College St. will be shut down from Linn St. to Muscatine Ave. Gilbert St. will be shut down from Burlington St. to Washington St. Dodge St. will be shut down and southbound traffic will be rerouted on to Washington St. Governor St. will be shut down and northbound traffic will be rerouted on to Burlington St. **The church and the parking lot will both be accessible.** It might take a few extra minutes to get to church that morning. Plan accordingly, but plan to worship with us. Race maps can be found [here](#).

OCTOBER EVENT CANCELED FOR 2021

The Progressive Dinner will not be held in the fall. As the pandemic continues, the safety of our congregation and the community is a priority.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR THE CRC WARM WINTER WEAR DISTRIBUTION!

The Consultation of Religious Communities' annual distribution of free warm clothing for community members is in need of volunteers. Because of COVID-19, the format for 2021 will be very similar to the protocol that was used a year ago.

Your help is needed at the church on Monday, October 18, at 10:00 a.m. to move the coats that we have been storing here to the distribution center.

Location: 340 Southgate Avenue, far east end of The GuideLink Center

Volunteers are needed for three days of sorting and organizing:

-5 volunteers needed for 3 hours on Sunday, October 17 (2 - 5 p.m.)

-5 volunteers needed per 3 hour shift on Monday, October 18, and Tuesday, October 19, at 9 - noon; noon - 3 p.m.; 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Volunteers are also needed for three-and-a-half days of clothing distribution: shopping begins Wednesday, October 20, and ends on Saturday, October 23:

-5 volunteers are needed for all shifts on Wednesday through Saturday at 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
W-F, 9 - Noon on Sat. (Clean up 12 - 3)

These volunteers will assist shoppers each day, serving as guides. They will also keep the space organized & restock the tables.

You are invited to sign up for multiple volunteer shifts during this event using this SignUp Genius link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0B49A9AE2FA20-winter2>

All donations should be brought to the GuideLink Center on Monday, October 18 between 9 and 6. Limited street parking is available on Southgate.