

# WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

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

WORSHIP FOR OCTOBER 4, 2020  
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

“World Communion Sunday reminds us that Christ calls us to a table where the welcome is wide. He offers us a space with bread and wine in abundance to give solace to our sorrow and to stir our joy.”  
Jan Richardson

PRELUDE                    “Prelude in D Major, Op. 48, No. 3”                    Josef Renner

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

As we gather this morning,  
we remember our sisters and brothers from north and south and east and west,  
from every time zone around the globe.

**As today's sunlight inches across land and sea**

**Christians gather to celebrate their place in God's family.**

All are invited and all are welcome.

Come, for the meal is ready!

HYMN           “Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather” (Japan)  
**Here, O Lord, your servants gather, hand we link with hand;  
looking toward our Savior’s cross, joined in love we stand.  
As we seek the realm of God, we unite to pray:  
Jesus, Savior, guide our steps, for you are the Way.**

**Many are the tongues we speak, scattered are the lands,  
yet our hearts are one in God, one in love’s demands.  
E’en in darkness hope appears, calling age and youth:  
Jesus, teacher, dwell with us, for You are the Truth.**

**Nature’s secrets open wide, changes never cease.  
Where, oh where, can weary souls find the source of peace?  
Unto all those sore distressed, torn by endless strife:  
Jesus, healer, bring your balm, for you are the Life.**

**Grant, O God, an age renewed, filled with deathless love;  
help us as we work and pray, send us from above  
truth and courage, faith and power, needed in our strife:  
Jesus, Master, be our Way, be our Truth, our Life.**

#### OPENING PRAYER

**Healing God, we come before you  
    broken, yet seeking wholeness,  
    isolated, yet seeking community,  
    overwhelmed, yet seeking simplicity.  
We ask for your grace to find these things.  
God of Compassion, we come before you  
    selfish, yet seeking a generous heart,  
    arrogant, yet seeking humility,  
    responsible for injustices, yet seeking forgiveness.  
We ask for your mercy to receive these things.  
God of Peace, we come before you  
    afraid, yet seeking assurance,  
    agitated , yet seeking serenity,  
    angry, yet seeking a forgiving heart.  
We ask for your acceptance to reach these things.**

**Knowing that in Christ all things are made new  
we come this day to be recreated and renewed. Amen.**

#### CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE LESSON           Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

PSALM 67

O God, be merciful to us and bless us;  
show us the light of your countenance and come to us.

**Let your ways be known upon earth,  
your saving health among all nations.**

Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.

**Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,  
for you judge the peoples with equity  
and guide all the nations upon earth.**

Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.

**The earth has brought forth its increase;  
may God, our own God, bless us.**

[Unison]

**O God, give us your blessing;  
may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of you.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON      Galatians 6:1-10

SERMON      “Many Tables, One Household”

TIME OF GRATITUDE

ANTHEM      “Alle, Alle, Alle”      arr. Will Schmid

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                    “Now to Your Table Spread” (New Zealand)

**Now to your table spread  
we come, each one in faith  
that you alone provide the words of life or death:  
in wine and bread,  
in promised food  
we find your loving heart, O God.**

**Hands of the world stretch out  
your mystery to touch  
in longing to believe a truth beyond our reach,  
to sing in joy,  
to cry in grief,  
to know your meaning for our life.**

**Here is our common wealth  
in sharing what is good,  
as though all humankind around one table stood,  
this bread to break,  
this wine to taste:  
one people in the name of Christ.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**We thank you, Lord, for this refreshment of our spirits, for this reminder we are not alone  
but are joined by many others who also seek healing, compassion, and peace. May this  
meal carry us into the times ahead. Lead us forward. Be with us still. Amen.**

HYMN                    “**In Christ There Is No East or West**”

**In Christ there is no east or west,  
In him no south or north;  
But one great fellowship of love  
Throughout the whole wide earth.**

**In Christ shall true hearts everywhere  
Their high communion find;  
God’s service is the golden cord,  
Close-binding humankind.**

**Join hands, disciples of the faith,  
Whate’er your race may be.**

**All children of the living God  
Are surely kin to me.**

**In Christ now meet both east and west,  
In Christ meet south and north;  
All joined in one community  
Throughout the whole wide earth.**

POSTLUDE            “Pageant”        June Nixon

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“Now to Your Table Spread” Words Shirley Erena Murray, Text: © 1987, Hope Publishing Company. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-715458. All rights reserved. The tune is in the public domain.

The opening prayer, “Healing God, we come before you...” was written by Ana and Tod Gobledale, who served UCC Global Ministries as local ministers in both South Africa and Zimbabwe, and in Australia at Churches of Christ Theological College near Melbourne. Adapted.

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:** Our office manager, Leo Agnew, moved out of town just as the pandemic was shutting down many activities, including those here at the church. Since April, our Communication Assistant, Christina Patramanis, has been staffing the office for 2-3 hours on Tuesday and Thursday. Because the need for office staff is minimal right now, we have delayed hiring a permanent replacement. With the start of the school year, Christina will change her hours, working on *either* Tuesday or Thursday, from 10-noon or 1:00 p.m. as needed. Next week she will be here on Thursday, October 8. The following week she will be in on Tuesday, October 13.

Bill Lovin has started taking Monday as his day off to accommodate the schedule of recording the worship service on Saturday morning. Bill is generally in the office during the day on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday and works from home on Friday. Our stewardship assistant, Nan Martin, is in the office on Friday.

As always, you can reach the church at 337-4301. Please leave a message if no one is available when you call. You can also contact the church office by email at [uccicadmin@uccic.org](mailto:uccicadmin@uccic.org). And Bill can be reached at [uccicrev@uccic.org](mailto:uccicrev@uccic.org).

**THE NEW ZOOM BIBLE STUDY HAS STARTED.** We are looking at the Gospel of Mark for eight sessions, two chapters each week, on Wednesday evenings from 7-8:30. If you would still like to be a part of this or have any questions, please call Bill Lovin at church (337-4301) or send him an email at [uccicrev@uccic.org](mailto:uccicrev@uccic.org) There is some interest in a daytime session as well. If you would like to be a part of a daytime study, please let Bill know.

**TEE OFFERING UPDATE.** Gifts for the TEE offering continue to come in. So far we have received \$1085 toward our annual offering to support the Theological Education by Extension College in South Africa (TEE Offering). Thank you for your generous giving. There is still time to give if you haven't already. 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).

**STAYING CONNECTED AND GETTING TOGETHER**—We miss one another! As the pandemic closure continues, we want to strengthen our ties to each other. Online worship, Zoom and Facebook Coffee Hours and Zoom Christian Education events help. Many are interested in small, outdoor, in-person gatherings. We plan to set up a few of these in the coming weeks—times to bring a cup of coffee and talk in a park or other creative ways of getting together. The weekly updates will give more information. And if you have ideas or want to help with this, please call the church office (337-4301) or email Bill at [uccicrev@uccic.org](mailto: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](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1UcrZ4ya9xFir39cG_lx-SCO6dVPBbV0B?usp=sharing)

**WINTER CLOTHING DISTRIBUTION:** This year's Winter Clothing Distribution (WCD) will be conducted over a period of several weeks (September 28 – November 21) at the old “CarQuest” Building, 821 South Clinton Street, Iowa City (NW corner of Clinton & Benton Streets). Several Congregational UCC members took the coats we had stored at the church last spring to the distribution site on Wednesday, October 1.

**Donations are Needed:** WARM Clothing in good condition – new, or gently used and clean, for all ages. **Winter Outerwear** is our focus: Coats, hats, scarves, mittens or gloves, snow pants, and winter boots. We will also accept warm sweaters, sweatshirts, sweatpants. PLEASE carefully review your items before dropping them off. We will NOT be accepting Halloween costumes this year

Items in bags or boxes should be dropped off by organizations or individuals at the back (west) door, adjacent to the large parking lot, October 1-9, from 10:00 a.m. until 4 p.m. (Note: on Saturday the 3rd, we will close at 2 p.m.)

**Volunteers are Needed to:** set-up; receive, sort, and organize clothing; escort family representatives selecting clothing; and clean up during this event, using four two-hour shifts (generally from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.). The sign-up for days / times will be done via Sign-Up Genius. You will be notified when this is ready for use.

Distribution of clothing will begin on Monday, October 12. The facility will be closed October 26 through November 3.

Various safety precautions are being taken in light of COVID-19. During the distribution of clothing, only one adult representative from three families will be admitted each half-hour to select clothing items with a physically distanced volunteer escort.

To help ensure your safety:

1. Assure that you are in good health and have not been exposed to COVID-19.
2. Bring your own multi-layer face mask. If one is not available, we will provide one.
3. Upon arrival, we will conduct a brief health status survey and perform a non-invasive check of your body temperature.
4. If you are going to escort the family representative who is shopping (October 12th through November 20th), also bring a face shield. If one is not available, we will provide one onsite. Non-latex gloves will also be provided.
5. Approved hand sanitizer will be available onsite.
6. Restrooms, for volunteers only, will be cleaned regularly.

For further questions, please contact WCD co-chairs John Barr (barrjohn@sau.edu) or Carolyn Otis (carolyn.otis@gmail.com)

**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](#).

## **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** will be financially empowering Pakistani women by hosting their 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Fair Trade Rug Event October 7-11 at the Iowa River Landing, Ste 110. Approximately 300 rugs, each handmade in Pakistani homes by fairly paid adult artisans, will be available in a variety of unique designs and sizes ranging from 2' x 3' to 10' x 14' and runners. Wed-Sat 10 am-7 pm, Sun 11 am-5 pm

**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).

**THE OBERMANN CENTER FOR ADVANCED STUDIES** invites all interested members and friends of our congregation to a community conversation the Obermann Center and the Theatre Arts Department are holding on Sunday, Oct 11 from 4-6 p.m. The event is modeled on the Civic Dinners program in Atlanta which brings people of good will together to use art and ideas to ground small group discussions about challenging issues.

In the first event of this new series, they will reflect on the theme *Finding Your Place in Conflicted Histories*. This will open with a live reading of *A Refugee in Detroit*, written by Keith Josef Adkins and performed by UI Theatre Arts actors. Then UI Professor Jessica Welburn Paige will discuss her study of Black resilience in Detroit, then shift to small groups to share our thoughts, experiences, hopes, and plans for more inclusive, just communities.

Please note that registration is required so that they can send individuals the Zoom address for the gathering:

<https://uiowa.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlqfumppj4jHNHPvvsuhwm3Mfw2142zMyU5>