



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

WORSHIP FOR NOVEMBER 8, 2020
TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

We pray for all who have authority in the world, for the leaders of our nation and of those who bear office in all the nations, that they may seek the peaceable fruits of justice; grant that they may know the limits of human wisdom in the perplexities of this day, and calling upon you in humility, and acknowledging your majesty, may learn the wisdom of restraint and the justice of charity. Amen.

Reinhold Niebuhr

PRELUDE “Intermezzo” Wm. Lloyd Weber

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Sisters and brothers, rejoice!

We live sustained by God’s presence and love.

As we struggle for justice,

God struggles along with us.

As we strive for peace,

God strives along with us.

As we mourn the wounds of God’s children,

God weeps along with us.

Sisters and brothers, rejoice!

Sustained by God’s presence and love, let us worship God.

HYMN “Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above”

**Sing praise to God who reigns above,
the God of all creation,
the God of power, the God of love,
the God of our salvation.
With healing balm my soul is filled
and every faithless murmur stilled:
To God all praise and glory!**

**The Lord is never far away,
but through all grief distressing,
an ever present help and stay,
our peace and joy and blessing.
As with a mother's tender care,
God helps us all our burdens bear:
To God all praise and glory!**

**Thus all my gladsome way along,
I sing aloud thy praises,
that all may hear the grateful song
my voice unwearied raises.
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart,
both soul and body bear your part:
To God all praise and glory!**

OPENING PRAYER

God of the ages, in your sight nations rise and fall, and pass through times of peril. Now when our land is troubled, be near to judge and save. May leaders be led by your wisdom; may they search your will and see it clearly. If we have turned from your way, reverse our ways and help us to repent. Give us your light and your truth; let them guide us; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE LESSON Ezra 1:1-4

PSALM 122

I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the Lord.”
 **Now our feet are standing
 within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

Jerusalem is built as a city
that is at unity with itself;
 **to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord,
 the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the Lord.**

For there are the thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the house of David

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:

“May they prosper who love you.

Peace be within your walls
and quietness within your towers.

For the sake of my kindred and companions,

I pray for your prosperity.

[Unison]

Because of the house of the Lord our God,

I will seek to do you good.”

SCRIPTURE LESSON Acts 1:1-8

SERMON “Something Happened”

TIME OF GRATITUDE

ANTHEM “Take My Life and Let It Be” arr. Robin Dinda
 Wen Chin Liu, Avery Nabholz, Josh Ramseyer, Colin Wilson

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

HYMN “Hope of the World”

**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.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Fanfare” Eric H. Thiman

“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.

We will be serving at the Free Lunch Program on Monday, November 30. If you would like to donate food for this, please contact Vicki Thomae at vickithomae@gmail.com.

Stewardship Is Heart Work: Pledge/estimate of giving cards for 2021 were sent out this week. If you have not received one, please contact the church office. If you have received a card, please prayerfully fill it out and return it to the church by November 20. 2020 has been filled with unexpected trials and tribulations. We anticipate more challenges in 2021. Your deeply considered, prayerful support will help us to continue our Church's mission in downtown Iowa City. Thanks again for your generous giving.

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice.

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. 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.

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