



CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
30 N. CLINTON ST.
IOWA CITY, IA 52245
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Worship for February 17, 2021
SERVICE FOR THE BEGINNING OF LENT

*A grain of wheat may be knocked to the ground
And suffer through the winter's cold
Only to rise right up again
And bear its seed a thousandfold.*
Shawn Kirchner

OPENING WORDS

INTROIT “Now the Green Blade Riseth”
 Kristin Ramseyer

Now the green blade riseth, from the buried grain,
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
Jesus' touch can call us back to life again,
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Your love for all that you made is without end. Call forth our prayers and acts of tenderness, and strengthen us to face our mortality, that we may reach with confidence for your mercy, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 6:28-33
CONSIDERING THE LILIES

PSALM 51:1-2, 10-12

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

**Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.

**Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.**

[Unison]

**Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.**

ACTIVE REFLECTION

SCRIPTURE LESSON Ezekiel 36:26

WEIGHING WHAT'S ON OUR HEARTS

SCRIPTURE LESSONS Hosea 6:6; Matthew 7:7-8

CHOOSING WHAT NEEDS TO BE TAKEN UP

SCRIPTURE LESSON II Corinthians 5:17-19

SEIZING THE MOMENT

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN "What Wondrous Love Is This"

**What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, That caused the Lord of bliss,
To bear the heavy cross,
For my soul, for my soul,
To bear the heavy cross for my soul.**

**To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing!
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing!
To God and to the Lamb, Who is the great "I AM, "**

**While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing!
While millions join the theme, I will sing.**

**And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on!
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on,
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
And through eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And through eternity, I'll sing on.**

BENEDICTION

Sisters and brothers, let us claim the freedom Christ gives us
by his self-giving on the cross.

May Christ empower us to serve together in faith, hope, and love.

Go in peace and serve the Lord.

Go in peace and serve the people.

Amen.

**YOU ARE INVITED TO STAY FOR FELLOWSHIP AND CONVERSATION
FOLLOWING OUR WORSHIP.**