



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

WORSHIP FOR MARCH 14, 2021
The Fourth Sunday of Lent

“God as our Maker supports us by his power, governs us by his providence, nourishes us by his goodness, and attends us with all sorts of blessings...”

John Calvin

PRELUDE “Fugue in F Minor” Charles Burney

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

We are scattered to many places,
but wherever we are, God dwells with us.

**In our going out and our gathering in,
God is in our midst.**

HYMN “Every Time I Feel the Spirit”

Refrain:

**Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray.
Yes, every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray.**

**Upon the mountain, when my Lord spoke,
Out of God's mouth came fire and smoke.
Looked all around me, it looked so fine,
Till I asked my Lord if all was mine. (Refrain)**

**Jordan river, chilly and cold,
It chills the body but not the soul.
There is but one train upon this track;
It runs to heaven and then right back. (Refrain)**

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, you breathed into dust the spirit of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Your love for all that you made is without end. Through these lengthening days, continue to 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 Joshua 1:1-9

PSALM 27:1, 3-4, 9, 13-14

The Lord is my light and my salvation
whom then shall I fear?

**the Lord is the strength of my life;
of whom then shall I be afraid?**

Though an army should encamp against me,
yet my heart shall not be afraid;

**and though war should rise up against me,
yet will I put my trust in the Lord.**

One thing have I asked of the Lord;
one thing I seek;

**that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life;
to behold the fair beauty of the Lord,
to seek God in the temple.**

Do not hide your face from me.

Do not turn away your servant in displeasure.

**You have been my helper;
cast me not away;
do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.**

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living.

**Wait for the Lord;
be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the Lord!**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 5:1-6

SERMON “The Encouraging Word”

TIME OF GRATITUDE

ANTHEM *“Ave Verum”*
Avery Nabholz, Wen Chin Liu, Colin Wilson, Josh Ramseyer

Hail, true body
born of the Virgin Mary,
Who truly suffered, sacrificed
on the Cross for man,
Whose pierced side overflowed
with water and blood,
Be for us a foretaste
In the test of death.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

HYMN “Before the Cross of Jesus”

**Before the cross of Jesus
Our lives are judged today;
The meaning of our eager strife
Is tested by his way.
Across our restless living
The light streams from his cross,
And by its clear, revealing beams
We measure gain and loss.**

**The hopes that lead us onward,
The fears that hold us back,
Our will to dare great things for God,
The courage that we lack,
The faith we keep in goodness,
Our love, as low or pure -
On all, the judgment of the cross
Falls steady, clear, and sure.**

**Yet humbly, in our striving,
O God, we face its test.
We crave the power to do your will
With Him who did it best.
On us let now the healing
Of his great Spirit fall,
And make us brave and full of joy
To answer to his call.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Toccatà” Johann Gottfried Walther

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

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.

PALMS FOR PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 28: Would you and your household like to have palms for Palm Sunday? We have ordered palms and the Deacons will be coordinating contactless delivery to members and friends in the days before Palm Sunday. If you would like palms, please call the church office (337-4301) or send Bill and email at uccicrev@uccic.org.

March is Shelter House Book Sale month! After last year’s heartbreaking cancellation, Shelter House is thrilled to have found a way to have the 2021 Book Sale! While they can’t open up for browsing, their Book Sale Committee and committed volunteers have been sorting and stacking books into bundles for you to buy and support Shelter House’s work. They will be selling the bundles by book type (think novel bundles, poetry bundles, nature bundles and more), and the first set of bundles will go on sale this week! Shelter House is thrilled with the quality of books they have to sell this year, and they have really enjoyed creating bundles of books that should offer something to appeal to everyone. Quantities are limited, so don’t miss out. You can find more information [here](#).

RACIAL JUSTICE–SOCIAL ACTION DISCUSSIONS: AN INVITATION

The Mission Board invites you to participate in any or all of five discussion groups to be held via Zoom during February, March, and April of this year.

We will come together with the hope of understanding and combating racism—within ourselves and in the world around us. Through the questions we ask and the answers we propose, we will seek specific projects and goals that can lift the burden of racism that our sisters and brothers of color—indeed, all of us—carry in our daily life.

Each session will highlight a different area for social action. Each will open with brief introductory remarks, and guided discussion will follow; we encourage *all* participants to voice their own thoughts! (If attendance warrants, Zoom will help us arrange smaller discussion groups.) The sessions are scheduled as shown below.

Registration instructions: please read carefully!

Registration will be handled through **Kyle Flippo, kyle-flippo@uiowa.edu**. Please email Kyle indicating the discussion(s) you’d like to join. Approximately a week before each session, registrants will receive a welcome letter with a Zoom link. Be sure to save space on your calendar for each session!

Immigration Mar. 25, Thursday, 7:00–8:30

Environmental Justice Apr. 27, Tuesday, 7:00–8:30

After you register, you'll also be offered a *few* pages of suggested reading for each session. After each discussion, you'll receive a list of proposed actions and activities.

We welcome you, and encourage you to pass our invitation on to others who may wish to join us. **If you have questions, please email Kyle Flippo, kyle-flippo@uiowa.edu.**

We need *you* for this project; please join us if you can. Few of us live without the benefits or harms of racial injustice. This is a chance for you to connect to the community and learn how you might help “to form a more perfect Union.”

The Beloved Community Initiative presents **CONGREGATIONAL UCC MEMBER AND PROFESSOR AND DIRECTOR OF THE SCHOOL OF PLANNING AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS, CHUCK CONNERLY, SPEAKING ON “WHY IS IOWA SO WHITE?”** Monday, March 15, 2021, 7:00 PM. You can register for this Zoom event [here](#).

It is not uncommon for people who live in Iowa to mention that they grew up knowing very few people of color. As we are often reminded around caucus time, Iowa remains the 6th whitest state in the nation. How and why did that happen?

Dr. Charles Connerly will walk us through Iowa's history—from the Indigenous nations who resided here until the land was taken from them to the establishment of “black codes” that restricted who could move here. He will highlight the ways that Iowa has at times welcomed and also excluded different groups of color. We'll look at some of the milestone civil rights decisions in Iowa as well as some of the decisions and events that serve more as millstones, weighing us down and holding us back from becoming a place where every Iowan can thrive.