

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

WORSHIP FOR APRIL 19, 2020
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

“Great grief, great God; where there is one, there is the other.”
Mark Doty

PRELUDE “Prelude” from *Seven Pieces for Organ* William Lloyd Webber

EASTER GREETING AND WELCOME

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let the spirit of Easter continue:

“Late on the first day of the week, when the disciples were together behind shut doors, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’”

**Let us, each in our separate rooms
But together as the followers of Jesus,
Invite the peace of Christ to settle over us.**

Let us worship God.

HYMN “God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

**God, whose giving knows no ending,
from your rich and endless store
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,
costly cross, grave's shattered door
gifted by you, we turn to you,
offering up ourselves in praise;
thankful song shall rise forever,
gracious donor of our days.**

**Skills and time are ours for serving
that your will on earth be done
all at peace in health and freedom,
peoples joined, the Church made one.
Now direct our daily labor,
lest we spend our time in vain.
Use our talents, guide our service
that our work your love proclaim.**

OPENING PRAYER

We do ask for your peace today, O Christ, and also for your patience and acceptance. Help us to be gentle with each other and ourselves.

Let the sounds of grief that come disguised as anger, irritation, or resentment be recognized and named. We find it hard to hear others give voice to their anguish and we find it hard to give credit to our own sense of fear or loss in the face of others' pain. Help us to acknowledge each other as we give voice to an uncertainty we all can claim. Help us to comfort each other in whatever ways we can. Give us your strength and accompany us as we go with hope and courage into the future. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 25:6-9

PSALM 16

Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you;
I have said to the Lord, "You are my Lord,
my good above all other."

**All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land,
upon those who are noble among the people.**

O Lord, you are my portion and my cup;
it is you who uphold my lot.

**My boundaries enclose a pleasant land;
indeed, I have a goodly heritage.**

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel;
my heart teaches me, night after night.

**I have set the Lord always before me;
because you are at my right hand I shall not fall.**

My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;
my body also shall rest in hope.

**For you will not abandon me to the grave,
nor let your holy one see the pit.**

[Unison]

**You will show me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy,
and in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON John 20:19-31

SERMON "Grieving Thomas"

A TIME OF GRATITUDE

SOLO "*Du bist, O Herr, mein Shirm und Schild*" (Lord, you are my refuge and my shield)
From Psalm 119 Antonín Dvořák

You are my refuge and my shield: I await your word.

Depart from me, you evildoers:
so that I keep the commandments of my God.
Give me strength, so that I shall be saved,
and that I observe your law always.
My flesh trembles for fear of you;
For I am afraid of Thy judgments, exceedingly.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN "The Day of Resurrection"

**The day of resurrection!
Earth, tell it out abroad;
the Passover of gladness,
the Passover of God.
From death to life eternal,
from this world to the sky,
our Christ hath brought us over,
with hymns of victory.**

**Our hearts be pure from evil,
that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal
of resurrection light;
and listening to his accents,
may hear, so calm and plain,
his own "All hail!" and, hearing,
may raise the victor strain.**

**Now let the heavens be joyful!
Let earth the song begin!
Let the round world keep triumph,
and all that is therein!
Let all things seen and unseen
their notes in gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord is risen,
our joy that hath no end.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Postlude" from *Seven Pieces for Organ* William Lloyd Webber

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Organist: Bill Crouch
Soloist: Kristin Ramseyer

After worship please join us on the Congregational UCC of Iowa City Group Page for a virtual coffee hour. Here's the link to that page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1363552690498867/>.

The Virtual Coffee Hour will begin at 10:55 on Sunday morning.

Thanks to everyone who gave so generously to our One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering. This offering has long been an important part of the life of our congregation. Your gifts will empower, provide water, supply food, and give relief from disasters. If you were not able to give last week, you can still do so. Please write "OGHS" on your check.