

CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
30 N. CLINTON ST.  
IOWA CITY, IA 52245  
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WORSHIP FOR MAY 10, 2020  
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

“As our national leaders live in denial of the extent of the COVID-19 Pandemic, we stand strong in diligently practicing social distancing and refraining from in-house worship at the same time as we advocate for the safety of those who are most vulnerable: the elderly, the poor, our health care professionals, the immigrant workers in our meat-packing plants, and our farmers, whose very livelihoods are threatened.”

Statement by Iowa Denominational Leaders

PRELUDE Prelude in C Major, Op. 48, No. 1 Josef Renner

EASTER GREETING AND WELCOME

Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed!**

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 139)

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

**May my meditation be pleasing to God,  
for I rejoice in the Lord.**

HYMN “We Sing the Mighty Power of God”

**We sing the mighty power of God  
that made the mountains rise,  
that spread the flowing seas abroad  
and built the lofty skies.**

**We sing the wisdom that ordained  
the sun to rule the day;  
the moon shines full at God’s command,  
and all the stars obey.**

**We sing the goodness of the Lord  
that filled the earth with food;  
God formed the creatures with a word  
and then pronounced them good.  
Lord, how your wonders are displayed,  
where’er we turn our eyes,  
if we survey the ground we tread  
or gaze upon the skies.**

**There's not a plant or flower below  
but makes your glories known,  
and clouds arise and tempests blow  
by order from your throne;  
while all that borrows life from you  
is ever in your care,  
and everywhere that we can be,  
you, God, are present there.**

#### OPENING PRAYER

**We have climbed a hill and halfway up we are exhausted, O God. Keep us from tumbling all the way back down.**

**We pause and seek your comfort.**

**Help us keep the effort we have already made and let it be brought along to contribute to the well-being of all of us.**

**We look out at the vistas you have made, and within the vastness of all we understand you to be, we find a place of rest.**

**In your respite, life seeps back in but our restless spirits will not find peace until you revive our powers of creativity and cooperation so we may together go on towards our common goal of establishing fullness of life for all people.**

**Give us your peace in this quiet moment to sustain us and remain with us in all the agitation and effort of our continuing climb. Be with us and let us know you as the one who is beyond us, with us and within us each day. Amen.**

#### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE LESSON      Jeremiah 6:13-15

PSALM 139:1-10, 23

Lord, you have searched me out and known me;  
you know my sitting down and my rising up;  
you discern my thoughts from afar.

**You trace my journeys and my resting-places  
and are acquainted with all my ways**

Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,  
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.

**You press upon me behind and before  
and lay your hand upon me.**

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

**Where can I go then from your Spirit?  
where can I flee from your presence?**

If I climb up to heaven, you are there;  
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.

**If I take the wings of the morning  
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,**  
even there your hand will lead me  
and your right hand will uphold me.

**Search me out, O God, and know my heart;  
try me and know my restless thoughts.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON      Matthew 11:28-12:8

SERMON      “Burden”

A TIME OF GRATITUDE

SOLO      “How Can I Keep from Singing”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

HYMN      “How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord”

**How clear is our vocation, Lord,  
when once we heed your call:  
to live according to your word,  
and daily learn, refreshed, restored,  
that you are Lord of all,  
and will not let us fall.**

**But if, forgetful, we should find  
your yoke is hard to bear;  
if worldly pressures fray the mind,  
and love itself cannot unwind  
its tangled skein of care:  
our inward life repair.**

**We mark your saints, how they became  
in hindrances more sure;  
whose joyful virtues put to shame  
the casual way we wear your name,  
and by our faults obscure  
your power to cleanse and cure.**

**In what you give us, Lord, to do,  
together or alone,  
in old routines and ventures new  
may we not cease to look to you,  
the cross you hung upon—  
all you endeavored done.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Postlude in G Major, Op. 134, No. 6 - Gustav Merkel

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

**WE WANT TO SEE YOU!** We’d 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. We’ll start including a few of these in the worship video 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)

### **OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP**

*Free Lunch is open and considered an essential service!* Due to the COVID 19 outbreak, many of the usual volunteers are unable to help, which means there are a few days each week with no volunteers scheduled. They are building an email list of people who might be willing/able to help on those open days. Food will be provided, they just need some helping hands!

If you’re willing/interested to be added to this list of occasional helpers, please follow the link below to sign up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E084EADAE2FA0FA7-covid>

They are serving all meals take out style through the side door in the kitchen. Guests are not allowed in the building. They are strictly limiting the number of volunteers (4- 6 people) to adhere to social distancing guidelines. They have gloves available as always, but no other PPE. If you would like to wear a mask or other protective "gear," you will have to bring your own.

*The March CROP Walk was cancelled, but you can still participate in the Virtual CROP Walk. All money raised will support hunger relief efforts in Johnson County (25%) and around the world through Church World Service (75%). Interested? Of course you are. Here's the link: <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/iowacityia/>*

*The May 30 NAMI WALK will also be virtual. For more information, follow the link: <https://www.namiwalks.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.event&eventID=900>*

**UCC Webinar on Environmental Justice & Health Justice Featuring Senator Cory Booker** Statistics and studies have demonstrated the link between COVID-19 death rates and environmental injustice. This May 20th webinar will address this link from three perspectives: scientific research, front line experience, and government response. Senator Cory Booker will be joined by Harvard researcher Francesca Dominici and one of the front line leaders of St. John the Baptist Parish in Louisiana. [Register now!](#)

**Stay in Place, Stay Alive, ORGANIZE: A Call for Moral Non-Cooperation.**

The Mass Poor People's Assembly & Moral March on Washington is going digital! On **June 20th**, the Poor People's Campaign will hold the largest digital and social media gathering of poor and low-wealth people, moral and religious leaders, advocates, and people of conscience in this nation's history. A global pandemic is exposing even more the already existing crisis of systemic racism, poverty, ecological devastation, the war economy and militarism, and the distorted moral narrative of religious nationalism.

[RSVP for June 20th here.](#)

