



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

WORSHIP FOR MAY 16, 2021
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
ASCENSION SUNDAY

**I soar and rise
Up to the skies,
Leaving the world their day,
And in my flight,
For the true light
Go seeking all the way.**

-Henry Vaughan, from Ascension Day

PRELUDE “From All That Dwell Below the Skies” Gerhard Krapf

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 95)

In God’s hands are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are God’s also.

**The sea is God's, for God made it,
and the dry land, which God's hands have formed.**
O come, let us worship before God, our Maker.

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 know we are not like you, O God, we are rooted to the ground. From our perspective, we can see so little. Our past reveals all we have missed. Help us to accept this place from which we live and help us to understand wherever we are, however limited we remain, we dwell within your loving view.

**Lord of all times and places, lift us up and lead us into faith. Draw us to you.
Allow us to be taken up and carried beyond ourselves to see a little as you do.**

**Work in us your compassion for the world you embrace. Then may we know what to do
and how to do it next. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Ephesians 2:1-10

**Come, lift your hearts on high;
alleluia! amen!
Let praises fill the sky;
alleluia! amen!
Christ is our guide and friend,
on whom we can depend;
his love shall never end:
alleluia! amen!**

**Praise yet our Christ again;
alleluia! amen!
Life shall not end the strain;
alleluia! amen!
On heaven's blissful shore
Christ's goodness we'll adore,
singing for evermore,
alleluia! amen!**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Rejoice, the Lord Is King” Healey Willan

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.

THE STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. **By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ. We will receive this offering on Pentecost Sunday, May 23.**

REOPENING SURVEY: Our Reopening Committee has been meeting to consider all the concerns and logistics that are involved in this. They have prepared a brief survey in order to get your thoughts and to involve everyone in this effort. The survey is anonymous. Please take a few minutes to fill it out and return it—all online. And note that this is not a group survey. We ask that each church member in your family fill one out. You can find the survey [here](#).

As we did a year ago, the **Mission Board is inviting church members to donate some or all of their COVID-19 Relief Checks** (stimulus checks) to local agencies which can get this money to individuals with immediate needs, some of whom don't qualify for relief checks. Many in our congregation will need to keep their relief checks just to make ends meet through the continuing crisis, but many in our congregation are still receiving their regular income and actually may have fewer expenses than usual. You can read the Mission Board's letter that includes an annotated list of agencies [here](#).

SUPPLY NEEDS AT COMMUNITY: Currently in need of **baby items** (diapers & wipes). Larger sizes of diapers tend to be more popular among our clients. Please feel free to drop off any donations of these items to the Pepperwood food bank location. CommUnity is also in need of containers to be used for repackaging dog food. A good example of containers that work well are empty Folger's coffee containers. Lastly, CommUnity is in need of nonperishable, easy to open, microwavable food items. Some good examples may include:

- pop top canned goods
- microwavable pasta cups
- microwavable soups
- microwavable rice
- etc.