

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

WORSHIP FOR MAY 31, 2020
PENTECOST

“We’re the body of Christ—not one of us, but all together—and we need each other. We’re different, and we’re meant to be different, and we’re meant to be together.”

Katherine Paterson

PRELUDE “Come, Holy Spirit, Our Souls Inspire” Paul Manz

GREETING AND WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

As ordinary people in these extraordinary times
we gather here today.

These are the days that we have been given

These are the challenges that we face

We seek to be the church on this corner
while also scattered throughout many towns and places.

Let us find new enthusiasm and vision

Let us be equipped with humility and grace

HYMN “Like the Murmur of the Dove’s Song:

Like the murmur of the dove's song,

like the challenge of her flight,

like the vigor of the wind's rush,

like the new flame's eager might:

Come, Holy Spirit, come.

To the members of Christ's body,

to the branches of the Vine,

to the Church in faith assembled,

to our midst as gift and sign:

Come, Holy Spirit, come.

With the healing of division,

with the ceaseless voice of prayer,

with the power to love and witness,

with the peace beyond compare:

Come, Holy Spirit, come.

OPENING PRAYER (from the Church of Scotland)

Come, Holy Spirit, to your world today.

**As you brought order out of chaos at the beginning,
brood over the chaos we have created in today's world,
so that people everywhere may learn the way to fullness of life,
and find purpose, meaning and hope in their existence.**

Where there is oppression and abuse of others, bring your justice.

Where there is anxiety and fear, bring your peace.

Where there is hatred and division, bring your love.

Guide us all in ways of justice and integrity, of truth and peace.

Come, Holy Spirit, to all who need your presence today.

Spirit of comfort, be near to all who are sad and lonely.

**Spirit of power, give your strength to those who carry heavy burdens and are weary on
life's journey.**

Spirit of peace, speak calm to troubled hearts and minds.

**Spirit of life and light, lift from despair those for whom daily life has lost interest, meaning,
and hope.**

**Come, Holy Spirit, revive us and equip us for those new tasks to which your people are
called today. Carry your church forward with new life, new hope, new vision. Let the gifts
of all be valued and used for the common good. May we act in the rich diversity of the one
body of Christ. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

I am the church! You are the church!

We are the church together!

All who follow Jesus,

all around the world!

Yes, we're the church together!

The church is not a building;

the church is not a steeple;

the church is not a resting place;

the church is a people.

SCRIPTURE LESSON I Corinthians 16:15-20

PSALMS 133 & 134

Oh, how good and pleasant it is,
when the community lives together in unity!

**It is like fine oil upon the head
that runs down upon the beard,**

upon the beard of Aaron,
and runs down upon the collar of his robe.

**It is like the dew of Hermon
that falls upon the hills of Zion.**

For there the Lord has ordained the blessing:
life forevermore.

**Behold now, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord,
you that stand by night in the house of the Lord.**

Lift up your hands in the holy place and bless the Lord;
the Lord who made heaven and earth bless you out of Zion.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Acts 2:1-21

SERMON “The Church Is...”

TIME FOR GRATITUDE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN “God Bless Your Church with Strength”

God bless your church with strength!

**Wherever we may be,
up build your servants as we work
in common ministry.**

**Urge us from fledgling faith
to venture and to soar
through open skies to sing the praise
of Christ whom we adore.**

**God bless your church with life!
May all our branches thrive,
un blemished, wholesome, bearing fruit,
abundantly alive.
From you, one holy vine,
in freedom may we grow;
sustain us in our mission, Lord,
your love and peace to show.**

**God bless your church with hope!
Despite chaotic days,
may we in darkness shine to light
a pathway through life's maze.
May justice be our aim,
and kindness ours to share;
in humbleness oh may we walk,
assured our God is there!**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Come, Holy Spirit” Andreas Armsdorf

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

WE WANT TO SEE YOU! We would 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. Or send a photo. We’ll start including a few of these in the worship service 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

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING: Each year at Pentecost we receive the “Strengthen the Church” offering to strengthen the United Church of Christ’s future by supporting new and renewing churches, youth and young adult ministries, and lay and pastoral leadership development—especially among women and people of color. This offering also funds the “Stillspeaking” Ministry, spreading the message of God’s extravagant welcome, reaching out especially to those who have felt there is no room for them within Christianity and the church. Contributions to this special offering can be made today and in the coming weeks. Your generous gift will help the UCC create vibrant church communities of extravagant welcome.

WE WILL RECOGNIZE THE GRADUATING SENIORS DURING OUR ONLINE WORSHIP ON SUNDAY, JUNE 7. Each year we recognize the high school graduates at Congregational UCC. Usually members and friends are asked to share their thoughts and good wishes with the graduates in a book that is presented to them along with a Prairie Lights gift certificate. And there is cake.

This year, of course, is different. We still want to celebrate with these seniors, however. **We invite you to send your thoughts to Tom Mittman, the chair of the Diaconate, who will then compile these and present them to the graduates.** Information about each of the seniors along with Tom’s email address were sent out to all members and friends last week. We will send this information out again in the coming week.

You will have to provide your own cake.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION

Congregational UCC will serve at the Free Lunch Program (FLP) on Monday, June 29 (our usual date on the fifth Monday of the month). If you would like to help, please contact Vicki Thomae at vickithomae@gmail.com or call the church office at 337-4301. Vicki is looking for folks to donate prepared food but will only ask 3-4 people to assist her that day. FLP is 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 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.

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.](#)

