



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

May 3 is the first Sunday of the month, the day on which we generally celebrate the sacrament of communion. And we will do that on Sunday and continue to do so in the months ahead. Before watching the worship service, everyone is invited to get whatever you eat and whatever you drink. It can be bread and grape juice or wine or as simple as a cracker or rice cake and water for use in our worship.

WORSHIP FOR MAY 3, 2020
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

“Good leadership consists in the restoration of the common good so that all members of the community, strong and weak, rich and poor, may live together in a common shalom of shared resources.”

Walter Brueggemann

PRELUDE “Prelude in C Major” BWV 567 J.S. Bach

EASTER GREETING AND WELCOME

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 100)

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth.

Worship God with gladness;

come into God's presence with singing.

Know that God is sovereign.

**It is God that made us, and we are God's;
we are God's people, and the sheep of God's pasture.**

HYMN "All People That on Earth Do Dwell"

**All people that on earth do dwell,
sing out to God with cheerful voice;
delight in God whose praise you tell,
whose presence calls you to rejoice.**

**Know that there is one God, indeed,
who fashions us without our aid,
who claims us, gives us all we need,
whose tender care will never fade.**

**Enter the sacred gates with praise;
with joy approach the temple walls.
Extol and bless our God always
as people whom the Spirit calls.**

**Proclaim again that God is good,
whose mercy is forever sure,
whose truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.**

OPENING PRAYER

**We rejoice in you and all that you are, O God, the Shepherd who watches over your people
and seeks their good.**

**You show us how to care for one another and to seek the good of all. You teach us what it
means to lead gently to a place of healing.**

**We seem lost this week, O God. Help us to remember all that it means to be your people
and the sheep of your pasture.**

**We think we hear the echo of a voice calling us to remember who we are. Even though we
may think we hear it, we struggle to find our way towards it. How can it be that we can
treat each other so carelessly and forget all that you have asked us to do? We see ferocious
forces coming at the vulnerable and in our anguish we scatter in confusion and a fearful
helplessness. Somehow let us hear your voice come through the chaos, direct us forward
towards a place where are all safe and secure.**

Give us perseverance, determination, courage and endurance as we move through these days.

You are the Good Shepherd and by the power of what you desire for us to be, you will lead us through. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE LESSON Ezekiel 34:1-15, 23-24

PSALM 23

**The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters.
He restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I fear no evil; for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON John 10:2-4, 14-16

SERMON “Prickles and the Rest of Us”

HYMN “Jesus, Our Divine Companion”

**Jesus, our divine companion,
By your lowly human birth
You have come to join the workers,
Burden bearers of the earth.
You, the carpenter of Nazareth,
Toiling for your daily food,
By your patience and your courage,
You have taught us work is good.**

**Where the many toil together,
There you are among your own;
Where the solitary labor,
You are there with them alone.**

**You, the peace that passes knowledge,
Dwelling in the daily strife;
You, the Bread of heaven are broken
In the sacrament of life.**

A TIME OF GRATITUDE

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

THANKSGIVING FOR BREAD AND CUP

Let us join together in prayer:

**We thank you, O Christ,
that scattered though we are, with different needs and hopes
you call us together at this meal and unite us as one body.**

**We thank you for this bread and cup set before us,
food and drink to nourish us in body and in spirit,
signs of your life-giving love.**

**May they speak to us
of the everyday made holy,
of life made new,
of hope for your realm among us.**

We remember that on the night of his arrest...

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF BREAD AND CUP

SOLO "Schafe können sicher weiden" BWV 208 J.S. Bach

Schafe können sicher weiden,
Sheep can safely graze
Wo ein guter Hirte wacht.
where a good shepherd watches over them.
Wo Regenten wohl regieren,
Where rulers are ruling well,
Kann man Ruh und Friede spüren
we may feel peace and rest

Und was Länder glücklich macht.
and what makes countries happy.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Good Shepherd, you have nourished us here together. Now be with us, your people and the sheep of your pasture, as we feed others and bear one another's burdens. May your goodness and mercy follow us all our days. Amen.

HYMN "Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above"

**Sing praise to God who reigns above,
the God of all creation,
the God of power, the God of love,
the God of our salvation.
With healing balm my soul is filled
and every faithless murmur stilled:
To God all praise and glory.**

**Thus all my gladsome way along,
I sing aloud thy praises,
that all may hear the grateful song
my voice unwearied raises.
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart,
both soul and body take your part:
To God all praise and glory.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee" BWV 642 J.S. Bach

Organist: Bill Crouch
Soloist: Kristin Ramseyer