



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

WORSHIP FOR JUNE 20, 2021
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

“Rejoice with those who rejoice...”
Romans 12:15

PRELUDE “Andantino” Op. 55 No. 8 Flor Peeters

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Shout for joy to God, all the earth!

Let us sing praises to the Lord our God.

**Let those who exalt themselves be humbled,
and let the humble be made glad.**

Come and see what God has promised.

Come and see what our Redeemer has done.

Together, let us worship God.

HYMN “My Song Forever Shall Record”

**My song forever shall record
The tender mercies of the Lord;
Thy faithfulness will I proclaim,
And every age shall know Thy Name.
I sing of mercies that endure,
Forever builded firm and sure.**

**The swelling sea obeys Thy will,
Its angry waves Thy voice can still;
The heavens and earth, by right divine,
The world and all therein, are Thine;
The whole creation’s wondrous frame
Proclaims its Maker’s glorious Name.**

**Almighty God, Thy lofty throne
Has justice for its cornerstone;
And shining bright before Thy face
Are truth and love and boundless grace.
The heavens shall join in glad accord
To praise Thy wondrous works, O Lord.**

OPENING PRAYER

God of love and light, in our thoughts and actions we have hidden ourselves from your presence. In fear we divide the world into friend and foe, and let distrust separate us from our neighbors. Search out our wayward souls. Save us from our divisive ways. Creator Spirit, wellspring of our lives, as the refreshing rain falls on the just and unjust alike, refresh us with your mercy. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 52:7-10

PSALM 107:1-9

Give thanks to the Lord, who is good,
whose mercy endures forever.

**Let all those whom the Lord has redeemed proclaim
that the Lord redeemed them from the hand of the foe.**

God gathered them out of the lands;
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.

**Some wandered in desert wastes;
they found no way to a city where they might dwell.**

They were hungry and thirsty;
their spirits languished within them.

Then in their trouble they cried to the Lord,

who delivered them from their distress.

The Lord put their feet on a straight path
to go to a city where they might dwell.

**Let them give thanks for the mercy of God,
for the wonders the Lord does for all people.**

For God satisfies the thirsty
and fills the hungry with good things.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 4:14-21

SERMON “Deliverance and Celebration”

A TIME OF GRATITUDE

DUET “God Is Love” Harry Rowe Shelley
 Kristin and Josh Ramseyer

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

HYMN “Great Day”

Refrain:

**Great day! Great day, the righteous marching,
Great day!
God's going to build up Zion's walls.**

**The chariot rode on the mountaintop,
God's going to build up Zion's walls.
My God spoke and the chariot did stop.
God's going to build up Zion's walls. Oh, (Refrain)**

**This is the day of Jubilee,
God's going to build up Zion's walls.
God shall set the people free.
God's going to build up Zion's walls. Oh, (Refrain)**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Allegro maestoto” Op. 55 No. 7 Flor Peeters

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The Call to Worship comes from Fourth Presbyterian Church, Chicago.
The Opening Prayer is adapted from *Feasting on the Word* and from “A Service of Prayer for Justice and Peace,” *Iona Abbey Worship Book*.

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

Thanks to Kristin and Josh Ramseyer for singing this morning.

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.

AN ALL CHURCH PICNIC WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, June 27, from 4-7 at City Park Shelter # 12. The Membership Board is planning this event as a way for us to see one another and catch up as we move toward reopening our church building. The Membership Committee will provide drinks and dessert. We’re making this a potluck, recognizing that each person/family will have different levels of comfort with this. Bring a dish to share if you are comfortable with that and if not, bring food for yourself/your family. Shelter 12 is near the play area, so this should be fun for people of all ages. See you there!

A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF BILL WILLIAMS will be held on Saturday, June 26, from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM at Kent Park, Red Haw Shelter - 2048 U.S. 6 Oxford, IA 52322. To help with preparing for this event, please let Janet Williams know if you plan to attend. Janet can be reached at 319-512-3663.

We invite you to send your thoughts and good wishes for our recent high school graduates to Tom Mittman, the chair of the Diaconate, who will then compile these and present them to the graduates. This year’s graduates are:

Hayden Beerends—City High
Ethan Buck—West High
Nicole Day—City High
Katie Hoefler—West High
Thomazin Jury—City High

WE ARE LOOKING FOR PEOPLE WHO WOULD LIKE TO SING A SOLO, DUET, ETC. DURING WORSHIP THIS SUMMER. If you are interested, you can sign up [here](#). High school instrumentalists and others who are interested in sharing a solo and accompanying a couple of hymns are also welcome to participate. For more information, please contact Kristin Ramseyer.

REOPENING NEWS: We took another step in reopening our church building as Jenn Harden, our new Office Manager, began working here this past week. Jenn has experience both in

working at a church and in working as an administrative assistant. She is excited about returning to a church setting. At first, she will work 10-15 hours per week. As we increase in-person activities, her hours will increase to 20 hours per week.

REOPENING NEWS: The Reopening Committee is making progress as we plan for a safe return to in-person worship services. We are increasing our internet capability so that we can livestream our worship when we return to Sunday morning services. We are making sure that our filters and air intake provide for high air quality in the sanctuary. Our current plans look at restarting in-person worship in early August. Some church boards have started meeting at the church.

If you haven't done so yet, please take a few minutes to fill it out the Reopening Committee's second survey 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](#).

BOB AND CLAIRE ASHMAN ARE LOOKING FOR GARDEN HELP. If you'd like to help them keep their garden growing this summer, please call Bob at 319-512-6401.

DELEGATE NEEDED FOR THE JOINT ANNUAL CONFERENCE MEETING— ALL ONLINE—JUNE 25 & 26

One of our congregation's elected delegates cannot attend the Annual Meeting of the Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota Conferences. The Church Council is looking for a replacement delegate.

All programs of the Annual Meeting will be virtual this year—no travel is necessary. The Meeting begins at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, June 25 and ends at 4:15 p.m. on Saturday, June 26. The theme this year is "Creation Care: Understanding Our Commitment to Eco-Justice." This will be two days of worship, workshops, business, fellowship, and more. You can learn more about the Annual Meeting [here](#).

If you are interested in representing Congregational UCC at this meeting, please contact Bill Lovin or the members of our Nominating Committee: Barb Sisley and Megan Carnes.

Table to Table Seeks Volunteers

Our volunteers keep good food from going to waste by rescuing it from food donors and delivering it to area agencies that serve people who are food insecure. **In 2019 our volunteers rescued 2.5 million pounds of food, serving 19,000 neighbors in need!**

Volunteers interact with food donor organizations, box up and load food donations into a Table to Table van, and transport and unload the food at recipient organizations such as community pantries, shelters, preschools, etc.

Route shifts typically take place between 8am-Noon Monday-Friday and last about 2-3 hours. Number of shifts each week depends on the need and the volunteer's availability. We also have a

limited number of routes on Saturday mornings. During the summer we also have opportunities related to gleaning fresh fruits and vegetables.

If you think you might be interested and have a bit of time on your hands (even just a few hours during the week) and would like to volunteer, **please email volunteer@table2table.org or call 319-337-3400 to chat about volunteer opportunities.** More information is available at our website: <https://table2table.org/volunteers/>. Masks are required and we have implemented additional safety precautions in accordance with CDC guidelines.

Things to know:

- Must have a valid driver's license and access to a vehicle
- Volunteers typically lift 30-40 lb. boxes of food
- Must be willing to volunteer a minimum of 30 total hours