



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

WORSHIP FOR JUNE 6, 2021  
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

“To acknowledge and cross a new threshold is always a challenge. It demands courage and also a sense of trust in whatever is emerging.”

John O’Donohue

*Today is a communion Sunday. Before joining the worship service, you are invited to assemble what you will eat and what you will drink. It can be bread and grape juice or wine or something as simple as a cracker or rice cake and water for use in our worship.*

PRELUDE “Cantabile” Clement Loret

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 121)

I lift up my eyes to the hills—  
from where will my help come?

**My help comes for the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth.**

The sun shall not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.

**The Lord will keep  
your going out and your coming in  
from this time forth and forevermore.**

HYMN           “O Holy Spirit, Root of Life”  
**O Holy Spirit, Root of life,  
the Cosmic Source of love and light,  
anoint our wounds, awaken us,  
and grant we see with healing sight.**

**Eternal Vigor, Saving One,  
you free us by your Living Word,  
becoming flesh to share our pain,  
and all creation is restored.**

**O Holy Wisdom, Soaring Power,  
encompass us with wing unfurled,  
and carry us, encircling all,  
above, below, and through this world.**

*CENTERING OURSELVES*

OPENING PRAYER (from *A New Zealand Prayerbook*)

Let us be at peace within ourselves.

*Silence*

Let us accept that we are profoundly loved  
and need never be afraid.

*Silence*

Let us be aware of the source of being  
that is common to us all  
and to all living creatures.

*Silence*

Let us be filled with the presence of the great compassion  
towards ourselves and towards all living beings.

*Silence*

Realizing that we are all nourished  
from the same source of life,  
may we so live that others be not deprived  
of air, food, water, shelter, or the chance to live.

*Silence*

Let us pray that we ourselves cease to be  
a cause of suffering to one another.

*Silence*

With humility let us pray for the establishment  
of peace in our hearts and on earth.

*Silence*

**Lead me from death to life,  
from falsehood to truth;  
lead me from despair to hope,  
from fear to trust;  
lead me from hate to love,  
from war to peace.  
Let peace fill our heart,  
our world, our universe. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON      Jeremiah 31:1-6

PSALM 138

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart;  
before the rulers I will sing your praise.

**I will bow down toward your holy temple  
and praise your name, because of your love and faithfulness;**  
for you have glorified your name  
and your word above all things.

**When I called, you answered me;  
you increased my strength within me.**  
All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O Lord,  
when they have heard the words of your mouth.

**They will sing of the ways of the Lord,  
that great is the glory of the Lord.**

The Lord is high, yet the Lord cares for the lowly  
and perceives the haughty from afar.

**Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe;  
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;  
your right hand shall save me.**

[Unison]

**O Lord, you will make good your purpose for me;  
O Lord, your love endures forever;  
do not abandon the works of your hands.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON      Matthew 7:7-14

*REFLECTING*

SERMON      “Threshold Experiences”

TIME OF GRATITUDE

ANTHEM      “Followers of the Lamb”      arr. Philip R. Dietterich  
Congregational UCC Choir

*REFRESHING OUR SPIRITS*

THE LORD’S SUPPER

INVITATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

HYMN      “For the Bread Which You Have Broken”  
Words and Music can be viewed [here](#).

**For the bread which You have broken,  
For the wine which You have poured,  
For the words which You have spoken,  
Now we give You thanks, O Lord.**

**By this promise that You love us,  
By Your gift of peace restored,  
By Your call to heaven above us,  
Hallow all our lives, O Lord.**

**In Your service, Lord, defend us;  
In our hearts keep watch and ward;  
In the world to which You send us  
Let Your kingdom come, O Lord.**

THANKSGIVING OVER THE ELEMENTS

**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.**

**Let us rejoice in the things of this world.  
We receive with joy the elements of life—  
sprouting grain and flowing water—  
you give us to nourish our bodies and our spirits.**

**We thank you for this bread and cup set before us.  
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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**For this time together and for these gifts of life we give you thanks, O God. From these we draw strength and are glad.**

**Now let this energy carry us forth each new day knowing that you are with us in our going out and our coming in.**

**You are with us, our strength and support, in whatever challenges we must face and in whatever tasks you give us to do. Amen.**

HYMN        “Be Thou My Vision”

**Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Nought be all else to me, save that Thou art—  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.**

**Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,  
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:  
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,  
Great God of heave, my treasure Thou art.**

**Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;  
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE    “Allegro spiritoso”    W.T. Best

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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

**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.

**WE WILL RECOGNIZE THE GRADUATING SENIORS DURING OUR ONLINE WORSHIP ON SUNDAY, JUNE 13.**

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, as last year, is different. We will still celebrate with these seniors, however. 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 invite you to send your thoughts and good wishes to Tom Mittman, the chair of the Diaconate, who will then compile these and present them to the graduates.** We will include the graduates in our prayers on June 13.

You will have to provide your own cake.

**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.

**A SECOND REOPENING SURVEY:** Our Reopening Committee has been meeting to consider all the concerns and logistics that are involved in opening the church and resuming in-person worship. The results of the first survey were so helpful that they have prepared a second 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](#).

**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.

**FREE LUNCH PROGRAM NEWS**

*Providing Good Food and Hospitality since 1983*

Our church prepared 65 lunches to go at the Free Lunch Program on Memorial Day, May 31, 2021. The dining room continues to be closed due to COVID-19 precautions. Tentatively, the FLP dining room will completely reopen in late September.

Thank you so much to all who volunteered by donating food for take-home lunches:

Sue Dayton, Bill Dickinson, Randee Fieselmann, Shelagh Hayreh, Betsy Henson, Linda Muston, Connie Parsons, Edie Roberts and Rebecca Weatherford

Special appreciation to Betsy Henson, Edie Roberts, Laura Stunz and Lee Wood for their cheerful onsite support. Our next scheduled serving date is [Monday, August 30, 2021](#).

*Vicki Thomae*

**NEW STAFF MEMBERS WILL BEGIN WORKING THIS SUMMER**

Jenn Harden has been hired as our new Office Manager. Jenn brings her combined experience of working in a church and working as an administrative assistant. She is excited about returning to a church setting. Jenn will begin her work here during the week of June 14. At first, she will work 10-15 hours per week. As we reopen and increase in-person activities, her hours will increase to 20 hours per week.

Dr. Chris Nakielski has been hired as our new Choir Director and will begin working here in August. While we are sorry to see Kristin Ramseyer leave as she pursues full time employment, we welcome Chris back with great joy. Many will remember that Chris was the Choir Director here while a doctoral student at UI. He is now teaching at Cornell College and living in Mount Vernon.

Welcome, Jenn and Chris.

**Thanks to everyone who gave to the Strengthen the Church Offering** on Pentecost Sunday, May 23. \$340 was received. This money will be used 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.