



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

WORSHIP FOR JULY 18, 2021  
EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Well that isolated feeling  
Drives you so close up against the wall  
Till you feel like can't go o  
You've been in the same place for so long  
Too long in exile  
Van Morrison

PRELUDE "A Tender Spiritual" Stanley Vann

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Isaiah 30)  
In returning and rest you shall be saved;  
in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.

**God waits to be gracious to you;  
therefore God will rise up to show mercy to you.**

The Lord is a God of justice;  
blessed are all those who wait for God.

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!**

**What God's almighty power hath made  
God's gracious mercy keepeth;  
By morning glow or evening shade  
God's watchful eye ne'er sleepeth;  
Within the kingdom of God's might,  
Lo! all is just and all is right:  
To God all praise and glory!**

**The Lord is never far away,  
but through all grief distressing,  
an ever present help and stay,  
our peace and joy and blessing.  
As with a mother's tender care,  
God helps us all our burdens bear:  
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 bear your part:  
To God all praise and glory!**

OPENING PRAYER

**Creator of our lives, source and destiny of all that is, we come to you in partial awareness of the hallowed nature of each human life, and in need of your reviving Spirit for comfort and grace. In the beauty of this day that you have made, in the solemn reverence of time set apart to hear your Word, in the strength of mutual care, in the silence and in the songs which attend your redeeming power, we come to worship and to wait for you.**

**May every bitter thought and each nagging worry about what we have done and what we have failed to do be washed out into the ebbing sea of your boundless mercy. Let every**

noble thought and every impulse of love be stirred anew by the breath of your Spirit. So lead us by your gentle inspiration to sense in each moment eternal depths, immeasurable goodness and the possibilities of tomorrow. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON      Ezra 1:1-11

PSALM 126

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,  
then were we like those who dream.

**Then was our mouth filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with shouts of joy.**

Then they said among the nations,  
"The Lord has done great things for them."

**The Lord has done great things for us,  
and we are glad indeed.**

Restore our fortunes, O Lord,  
like the watercourses of the Negev.

**Those who sowed with tears  
will reap with songs of joy.**

[Unison]

**Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON      Philippians 2:12-13

SERMON      "Return and Renewal"

TIME OF GRATITUDE

SOLO      "A Gaelic Blessing" John Rutter  
            Kristin Ramseyer

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN      "Great God, We Sing That Mighty Hand"

**Great God, we sing that mighty hand  
By which supported still we stand;  
The opening year Your mercy shows;  
That mercy crowns it till it close.**

**With grateful hearts the past we own;  
The future, all to us unknown,  
We to Your guardian care commit,  
And peaceful leave before Your feet.**

**In scenes exalted or depressed,  
You are our joy, and You our rest;**

**Your goodness all our hopes shall raise,  
Adored through all our changing days.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above” Timothy Albrecht

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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

**Thanks to Kristin 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.

**REOPENING NEWS:** We will resume in-person worship on Sunday, August, 1, at our usual time, 10:15 a.m. Masks will be required of all people in worship and we will observe social distance as well. There will be no coffee hour at first, although people are invited to go outside and talk after worship if they wish. We are making sure that our filters and air intake provide for high air quality in the sanctuary. While we are moving toward livestreaming the services, they will initially be recorded and posted later in the day on Sunday.

**ALL CHURCH WORK DAY, SATURDAY, JULY 24, STARTING AT NOON.** Join with your Congregational UCC friends to help us get our building ready so that we can reopen and resume in-person worship services. We’ll start around noon and work as long as we can through the afternoon.

**A Memorial Service for Judy Doorenbos** will be held on Friday, July 30, at 10:30 a.m. at Lensing Funeral Home.

**YOU CAN DONATE FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP SERVICES IN AUGUST.** With the resumption of in-person worship services comes the opportunity to donate flowers for worship. If you would like to give flowers on an upcoming Sunday, please call our Office Manager, Jenn Harden at 337-4301.

### **Table to Table Seeks Volunteers**

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](mailto: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.