

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

WORSHIP FOR JULY 19, 2020
SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

“You are a light. You are the light. Never let anyone—any person or any force—dampen, dim or diminish your light. Study the path of others to make your way easier and more abundant. Lean toward the whispers of your own heart, discover the universal truth, and follow its dictates. [...] Release the need to hate, to harbor division, and the enticement of revenge. Release all bitterness. Hold only love, only peace in your heart, knowing that the battle of good to overcome evil is already won.”

John Lewis

PRELUDE “Prelude in E-flat Major, Op. 41, No. 1” Alexandre Guilmant

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 107)

Give thanks to the Sovereign God, for God is good,
and God’s mercy endures forever.

**We give thanks for God’s steadfast love
and for God’s wonderful works for all people.**

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

**God leads us out of shadows and gloom
and we tell of Gods’ deeds with shouts of joy.**

HYMN “O That I Had a Thousand Voices”

**O that I had a thousand voices
To praise my God with thousand tongues!
My heart, which in the Lord rejoices,
Would then proclaim in grateful songs
To all, wherever I might be,
What great things God has done for me.**

**O all you powers that God implanted,
Arise, keep silence now no more;
Put forth the strength that God has granted!
Your noblest work is to adore.
O soul and body, join to raise
With heartfelt joy our Maker’s praise.**

**You forest leaves so green and tender
That dance for joy in summer air,
You meadow grasses, bright and slender,
You flowers so fragrant and so fair,
You live to show God's praise alone.
Join me to make God's glory known.**

**All creatures that have breath and motion,
That throng the earth, the sea, the sky,
Come, share with me my heart's devotion,
Help me to sing God's praises high.
My utmost powers can never quite
Declare the wonders of God's might.**

OPENING PRAYER (a prayer of Walter Rauschenbusch)

**O God, we thank you for this earth, our home;
for the wide sky and the blessed sun,
for the salt sea and the running water,
for the everlasting hills and the never-resting winds,
for trees and the common grass underfoot.**

**We thank you for our senses by which we hear the songs of birds,
and see the splendor of the summer fields,
and taste of the autumn fruits,
and rejoice in the feel of the snow,
and smell the breath of the spring.**

**Grant us a heart wide open to all this beauty;
and save our souls from being so blind
that we pass unseeing when even the common thornbush
is aflame with your glory,
O God our creator,
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE LESSON I Samuel 16:1-13

PSALM 147:1-9, 19-20

Hallelujah!

How good it is to sing praises to our God!
how pleasant it is to honor the Lord with praise!

**The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem
and gathers the exiles of Israel.**

The Lord heals the brokenhearted
and binds up their wounds.

**The Lord counts the number of the stars
and calls them all by their names.**

Great is our Lord and mighty in power,
whose wisdom is beyond limit.

**The Lord lifts up the lowly,
but casts the wicked to the ground.**

Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving;
make music to our God upon the harp.

**God covers the heavens with clouds
and prepares rain for the earth;**

God makes grass to grow upon the mountains
and green plants to serve humankind.

**God provides food for flocks and herds
and for the young ravens when they cry.**

God's word is declared to Jacob,
God's statutes and judgments to Israel.

**The Lord has not done so to any other nation;
to them God's judgments have not been revealed.
Hallelujah!**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Mark 8:22-26

SERMON "Seeing, Sort of"

TIME OF GRATITUDE

SOLO "How Firm a Foundation"
Marie Von Behren, soloist

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN "Live into Hope"

**Live into hope of captives freed,
Of sight regained, the end of greed.
The oppressed shall be the first to see
The year of God's own jubilee!**

**Live into hope the blind shall see
With insight and with clarity,
Removing shades of pride and fear--
A vision of our God brought near.**

**Live into hope of captives freed
From chains of fear or want or greed.
God now proclaims our full release
To faith and hope and joy and peace.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Voluntary in C Major” Charles Vincent

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

Special thanks to Marie Von Behren for singing this during our worship.

“O That I Had a Thousand Voices,” Translation text: © 1941, Concordia Publishing House. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-715458. All rights reserved.

“Live into Hope,” Jane Parker Huber, Words ©1980 Presbyterian Publishing/Westminster John Knox/Geneva Press. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-715458. All rights reserved.

DO YOU HAVE A HYMN THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SING IN THE COMING MONTHS? Let Bill Lovin know. This is no guarantee that we will sing it, as the hymn will need to be covered by our reprint license, fit with the rest of the worship service and work for the person who will be leading the singing—but we’d like to hear from you and sing a new song.

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_1x-SCO6dVPBbV0B?usp=sharing

CROP Walk—Congregational UCC was one of the Top 5 Teams this year, raising over \$930. This was in large part due to the efforts of Betsy Henson and Sylvia Woolums, who were two of the Top 10 Walkers. You can still donate here and even choose to support an individual walker or Congregational UCC.

FOOD BANK RETURNS TO ACCEPTING IN-KIND DONATIONS

Beginning Wednesday, July 22nd, the CommUnity Food Bank will be able to accept donations of food and household items by appointment. Appointments will be available Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 8am-4pm.

There are 3 ways to request an appointment to drop off an in-kind donation. You can:

- Call the Food Bank at 319-351-0128
- E-mail donations@builtbycommunity.org, or
- Set up an appointment at [this link](#)

More information about the types of items we are able to accept is available [on their website](#).

The Consultation of Religious Congregations (CRC) is forming a Racism Education Work Group to compile resources and provide assistance to faith communities as they begin to tackle the tasks spelled out in the CRC Statement on Racism & Current Events. If you are interested in

serving in the work group or would like more information, please contact Mark Martin at pastormwm@gmail.com or 319-330-3030. It is his hope to have an initial group session on Zoom before the first of August.

