



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

WORSHIP FOR JULY 4, 2021  
SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

We, the people, must redeem  
The land, the mines, the plants, the rivers.  
The mountains and the endless plain—  
All, all the stretch of these great green states—  
And make America again!

Langston Hughes

PRELUDE    “Finale” from *Sonata VI*    Felix Mendelssohn

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 29)

Ascribe to the Sovereign God glory and strength.

**Worship God in holy splendor.**

May God give strength to the people!

**May God bless the people with peace!**

HYMN            “God of the Ages, Who with Sure Command”

**God of the ages, who with sure command  
Brought forth in beauty all the starry band  
Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,  
Our grateful songs before your throne arise.**

**Your purpose, just, envisions mortals free;  
God, set our path toward human liberty.  
Still be our ruler, guardian, guide and stay—  
Your Word our law, your paths our chosen way.**

**From war’s alarms, from deadly pestilence,  
With steadfast care be ever our defense;  
Your love and faith within our hearts increase;  
With bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.**

**Refresh your people on life’s toilsome way;  
Lead us from night to never ending day;  
With truth and love guide us through error’s maze,  
And we shall give your glory, laud and praise.**

OPENING PRAYER

**God of all times and places, you are found in the heat of the midday and the cool of the evening. You are found in the quiet of the country as well as in the music of the city. You are open to us at any time, and in any place. And so we come before you, to sing, to pray, and to be sent back into your wider world.**

**We come before you remembering the week now past and anticipating the days to come. Where there is joy, we hope that you will rejoice with us.**

**Where there is sorrow, we hope that you will tenderly share our sadness.**

**Where there is regret for what we have done, or failed to do, we seek your forgiveness.**

**Lift our hearts with the wings of song, heal our souls with the balm of prayer, enliven our minds with the words of scripture and interpretation, and newly enable us to dedicate our strength, our substance, and our service to your work in the world; through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON            Isaiah 58:2-11

PSALM 146

Hallelujah!

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

I will praise the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

**Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any child of earth,  
for there is no help in them.**

When they breathe their last, they return to earth,  
and in that day their thoughts perish.

**Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help!**  
**whose hope is in the Lord their God;**  
who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;  
who keeps faith forever;  
**who gives justice to those who are oppressed,**  
**and food to those who hunger.**  
The Lord sets the prisoners free;  
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind;  
**the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;**  
**the Lord loves the righteous**  
**and cares for the stranger;**  
the Lord sustains the orphan and widow,  
but frustrates the way of the wicked.  
**The Lord shall reign forever,**  
**your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.**  
**Hallelujah!**

SCRIPTURE LESSON      Luke 15:1-10

SERMON      “To Look for America”

A TIME OF GRATITUDE

SOLO      "O Rest in the Lord" from *Elijah*      Felix Mendelssohn  
                 Kelly Hill, soloist

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

HYMN      “Lift Every Voice and Sing” James Weldon Johnson, J. Rosamond Johnson

**Lift every voice and sing**  
**'Til earth and heaven ring**  
**Ring with the harmonies of Liberty**  
**Let our rejoicing rise**  
**High as the listening skies**  
**Let it resound loud as the rolling sea**  
**Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us**  
**Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us**  
**Facing the rising sun of our new day begun**  
**Let us march on 'til victory is won**

**Stony the road we trod**  
**Bitter the chastening rod**  
**Felt in the days when hope unborn had died**  
**Yet with a steady beat**  
**Have not our weary feet**  
**Come to the place for which our parents sighed?**

We have come over a way that with tears has been watered  
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered  
Out from the gloomy past  
'Til now we stand at last  
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast

God of our weary years  
God of our silent tears  
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way  
Thou who has by Thy might  
Led us into the light  
Keep us forever in the path, we pray  
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee  
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee  
Shadowed beneath Thy hand  
May we forever stand  
True to our God  
True to our native land

#### BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Fugue" from *Sonata VI* Felix Mendelssohn

The church office will be closed tomorrow in celebration of Independence Day.

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 Kelly Hill** 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.

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

**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:** 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 toward 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 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.

**JOHNSON COUNTY INTERFAITH COALITION VOTER REGISTRATION EFFORT**  
The Johnson County Interfaith Coalition has received a substantial grant to do voter registration and canvassing in Johnson County. We will be able to hire a canvassing coordinator and pay folks to do canvassing in lower income and neighborhoods of people of color.

We will be using an online database to do data entry, searching, creating contact lists for neighborhoods, etc.

We need folks with computer experience to work with the Voter Action Network (VAN) database. If you have computer skills and are willing to donate some time to assist with this project over the next 1.5 years, please let me know. As with most computer tasks, the scheduling of work is flexible, and you would get training in the use of the database.

If you are interested in helping, please contact Donna Hirst

### **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](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.

**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

**Bread for the World**, along with several faith groups, is hosting a joint webinar on **Wednesday, July 7, at 4 pm ET** to encourage and equip faith leaders and service providers to sign people up for the newly expanded Child Tax Credit. The expanded checks start going out on July 15, and we want to ensure people get the benefit, especially the millions of people who didn't file a tax return.

**Register for the webinar at: [www.bread.org/CTCwebinar](http://www.bread.org/CTCwebinar).**

Gene Sperling, the White House American Rescue Plan Coordinator & Senior Advisor to the President, is a featured guest speaker. The webinar will also highlight faith leaders and service providers who will share their outreach efforts. Finally, we'll have Elisa Minoff from the Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP) walk through the online portal and provide very practical nuts and bolts information about signing people up.