



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

WORSHIP FOR AUGUST 1, 2021
TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

I live my life in widening circles
that reach out across the world.
I may not complete this last one
but I give myself to it.
Rainer Maria Rilke

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rejoice, people of God!

Celebrate the life within you,
and Christ's presence in your midst!

Our eyes shall be opened!

**The present will have new meaning,
and the future will be bright with hope.**

Rejoice, people of God!

Bow your heads before the One
who is our wisdom and our strength.

**We place ourselves before our God.
that we may be touched and renewed
by the power of God's Spirit.**

HYMN “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

**Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee,
Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!**

**All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
Earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
Center of unbroken praise;
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain
Call us to rejoice in Thee.**

**Mortals, join the happy chorus,
Which the morning stars began;
Love divine is reigning o’er us,
Joining all in heaven’s plan.
Ever singing, march we onward,
Victors in the midst of strife;
Joyful music leads us sunward
In the triumph song of life.**

OPENING PRAYER

**O God, the source of our being and the goal of our longing:
the whole earth is full of your glory and all that has life is sustained by you.
We rejoice that you have made us to reflect your image and to care for creation.
Give us courage to face our failure and limitations, and to overcome our helplessness.
Take the things that we have destroyed.
Take the brokenness of our living.
Gather around us your goodness,
and renew us and the whole creation with your saving grace; through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Ezra 4:1-3

When the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin heard that the returned exiles were building a temple to the Lord, the God of Israel, they approached Zerubbabel and the heads of families and said to them, “Let us build with you, for we worship your God as you do, and we have been sacrificing to him ever since the days of King Esar-haddon of Assyria who brought us here.” But Zerubbabel, Jeshua, and the rest of the heads of families in Israel said to them, “You shall have

**we, your children in your likeness,
share inventive powers with you.
Great creator still creating,
show us what we yet may do.**

**As each far horizon beckons,
may it challenge us anew,
children of creative purpose
serving others, honoring you.
May our dreams prove rich with promise,
each endeavor well begun.
Great creator, give us guidance
till our goals and yours are one.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Minister:	The Rev. Bill Lovin
Director of Children's Programs:	The Rev. Ann Molsberry
Organist:	Bill Crouch
Choir Director	Chris Nakielski
Office Manager	Jenn Harden

Thanks to Bill Dickinson for playing the organ this morning..
Thanks to Teresa Treat and Marie Von Behren for singing this morning.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP THIS MORNING! This is not the in-person worship that we expected to hold this morning. In consultation with the members of our Church Reopening Committee, Bill Lovin decided to cancel the in-person worship service. Given the work that went into the preparation for resuming in person worship and our excitement about coming together again, this was not an easy decision. It was made necessary by a number of factors:

1) The rapid increase of the spread of the delta variant in the past week and the changing CDC guidance have raised new concerns about the safety of in-person indoor gatherings. We have consistently put the safety and well being of people as our highest concern and that will continue. We will have a better understanding the situation in the days.

2) We had electricity problems at the church on Friday and Saturday. While we think these have been resolved, we are not completely certain. The air conditioning was off for some of this time and it is vital that we have uninterrupted ventilation when meeting in person.

3) While parking is never great, the resurfacing of Clinton and Jefferson streets means that there is not on-street parking by the church.

We will record a worship service on Sunday and post it to our website as quickly as possible. Because we have upgraded our internet capabilities, we expect to post the service on Sunday morning.

In the days ahead we will reassess our plans. We hope to have in-person worship in the coming weeks and will do so when it is safe and appropriate.

RECORDINGS OF THE WORSHIP SERVICES are posted on Sunday afternoon 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.

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 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.