



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

WORSHIP FOR AUGUST 8, 2021
ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

If I sin and am rebellious, help me to repent;
the take away my mourning and give me music;
remove my sackcloth and adorn me with beauty;
take away my sighs and fill my mouth with songs;
and when I am restored and rest in thee
give me summer weather in my heart.
Puritan prayer

PRELUDE "Prelude in G Major" Antonin Dvorak

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the midst of doubt and despair

let us celebrate the promise of faith and hope.

In the midst of hatred and death

let us celebrate the promise of love and life.

In the midst of sin and decay

let us celebrate the promise of forgiveness and renewal.

HYMN “Come, Great God of All the Ages”

**Come, great God of all the ages,
Make Your earthly mission known;
Speak through every deed and person,
Let Your way and will be shown.
Guide the church to true commitment,
Give direction now, we ask;
Fit us for the work of building,
Dedicate us to the task.**

**Come, Christ Jesus, flesh and spirit,
Sure foundation, cornerstone,
Help us form the church eternal,
May Your vision be our own.
Send a message to each follower,
Lead all people to Your way;
Urge us to strong faith and action
As we build the church today.**

**Come, great Spirit, in and with us,
Tune our ears to hear Your call;
Through the moving of Your presence.
Let redeeming love recall
Ministry in dedication,
Love embodied in our deeds;
Challenge us to do Your bidding,
See Your purpose, fill all needs.**

**Come, O come, in celebration,
Household of the one true God.
In commitment and rejoicing
Let us go where Christ has trod;
As we act in faith and reverence.
Let us, Lord, the future see;
Place us in the church triumphant,
Now and for eternity.**

OPENING PRAYER

**God, teach us the silence of humility
 the silence of wisdom
 the silence of love
 the silence that speaks without words
 the silence of faith.**

**God, teach us to silence our own hearts and minds
 that we may listen to the movement of the Holy Spirit with us**

and feel your presence in the depth of our being. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Nehemiah 1:1-11

PSALM 42

As the deer longs for flowing streams,
so longs my soul for you, O God.

**My soul is athirst for God, athirst for the living God;
when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?**

My tears have been my food day and night,
while all day long they say to me,

"Where now is your God?"

**I pour out my soul when I think on these things:
how I went with the multitude and led them into the house of God,
with the voice of praise and thanksgiving,
among those who keep the festival.**

Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul?
and why are you so disquieted within me?

**Put your trust in God;
for I will yet give thanks to the One
who is the help of my countenance, and my God.**

My soul is heavy within me;
therefore I will remember you from the land of Jordan,
and from the peak of Mizar among the heights of Hermon.

**Deep calls to deep at the thunder of your cataracts;
all your rapids and floods have gone over me.**

The Lord grants loving-kindness in the daytime;
in the night season the song of the Lord is with me,
a prayer to the God of my life.

**I will say to the God of my strength,
"Why have you forgotten me?
and why do I go so heavily while the enemy oppresses me?"**

While my bones are being broken,
my enemies mock me to my face;

**all day long they mock me
and say to me, "Where now is your God?"**

Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul?
and why are you so disquieted within me?

**Put your trust in God;
for I will yet give thanks to the One
who is the help of my countenance, and my God.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Philippians 1:3-11

SERMON "Deep Calls to Deep"

TIME OF GRATITUDE

SOLO “Hear My Prayer, O Lord” Antonin Dvorak
Taylor Mayne

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

HYMN “Let All Things Now Living”
**Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
to God the Creator triumphantly raise,
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
who guides us and leads to the end of our days.
God’s banners are o’er us; Pure light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
till shadows have vanished, all fearfulness banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.**

**By law God enforces, the stars in their courses
The sun in its orbit obediently shine;
The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains;
The depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing;
With glad adoration, a song let us raise,
Till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:
To God in the highest, hosanna and praise.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Fughetta” Antonin Dvorak

“Come, Great God of All the Ages” (ABBOT’S LEIGH) - Mary Jackson Cathey, Cyril Vincent Taylor, Words and Music - ©1990 Hope Publishing Company. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-715458. All rights reserved.

“Let All Things Now Living” - Katherine K. Davis, Words and Music - ©1939, 1966 ECS Publishing. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-715458. All rights reserved.

Call to Worship and Opening Prayer adapted from *Jesus Christ—The Life of the World: Prayers and Litanies*, ©1987, World Council of Churches.

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 Taylor Mayne for singing this morning.

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.

REOPENING NEWS:

The Church Council met on Wednesday evening and considered the recommendations of the Reopening Committee for resuming in-person worship on Sunday mornings. This followed the recommendation of the Iowa UCC Conference on Tuesday, which strongly suggested that congregations who are still meeting and worshipping online only continue to do so until the conditions improve.

Putting the safety of both the vaccinated and the unvaccinated in our congregation and the community first, we have decided to set **Sunday, September 12, the first Sunday after Labor Day, as the date to resume in-person worship.** This will allow us to accomplish several things in the coming weeks:

1. Monitor Covid cases to make sure they are at a safe level. This is especially important as students begin to arrive from across the state, nation, and world in the coming weeks.
2. Finish preparations for live-streaming worship services so that those who are unable to attend in person can still participate.
3. Fix any outstanding electrical problems.

Our worship schedule will be as follows;

- August 8—Online only, Bill Lovin preaching
- August 15—Outdoor worship service at 10:15 a.m., location to be determined
- August 22—Online only, Ann Molsberry preaching
- August 29—Online only, Bill Lovin preaching
- September 5—Online only, Bill Lovin preaching
- September 12—In-person worship in the sanctuary, 10:15 a.m.

This was a difficult decision and we understand the disappointment that some might feel. Everyone wants to get back to worshipping together as soon as possible. A few more weeks away during the summer will prepare us for coming together once more at the time when our program year traditionally begins.

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.