



**NEWTON
CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**
God is still speaking,

An Open and Affirming Congregation

*No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here!*

**Virtual Worship • June 28, 2020 • 10:00am
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost • Open and Affirming Sunday**

Digital Bulletin

This document is prepared so you can join our Sunday morning live-stream worship via our Facebook page (facebook.com/NewtonUCC) or call in via Zoom (Dial 312-626-6799, when prompted enter Meeting ID: 624 681 423 followed by #) or worship on your own at a time convenient for you (visit our Facebook page or website—uccnewton.org).

We are new to online and streaming worship at Congregational UCC and still working on smoothing out a few “hiccups” and technical difficulties. Of course, there is nothing that compares to being physically present with one another in worship, and yet this is what we need to do “love our neighbors” during the current national emergency.

We apologize in advance for any problems that you may encounter in connecting to the service and welcome your feedback on how to improve the virtual worship experience over the coming weeks when we will not be able to worship in our sanctuary.

PREPARING FOR VIRTUAL WORSHIP

As you prepare to join in online worship with us, in addition to making whatever technical preparations you need to make, consider how to prepare your personal space for worship:

- Silence your phone and eliminate distractions
- Light a candle or some incense
- Open your Bible or browser to Matthew 10:40-42
- Position your body in a posture of worship and prayer

*“Those who welcome you also welcome me,
and those who welcome me welcome the One who sent me.”*
Matthew 10:40

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

REMEMBERING WHO WE ARE

One: As we prepare ourselves to join together in worship,
let us remind ourselves who we are
as members and friends of Congregational United Church of Christ.

**All: We are a community of God’s beloved
dedicated to following the teachings of Jesus as we live our faith
by loving and serving all of God’s creation
and striving for justice and peace
throughout our community, our nation, and the world.**

THE BREATH OF GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We come today representing all the majesty of creation,

**All: diverse and beautiful, blessed and beloved,
all made in the image of the Creator of all things.**

One: We come today called to this time and this place by an infinite God

All: who hears our cries and responds with love and mercy.

One: We come today Transgender, Nonbinary, Bisexual,
Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Intersex, Gay, Queer, Ally.

All: We come today, knowing you will listen and answer our needs.

One: We come today to deliver our joined prayers of hope.

**All: We come today a people still mourning our losses,
still recovering from the ravages of the Covid-19 pandemic
and the pandemic of institutionalized racism
that has plagued our world for too many centuries.**

One: We come today knowing you care for us.

**All: We come today knowing that, even when others reject us,
your arms are open to offer comfort. We come.**

OPENING HYMN

All Are Welcome (vs. 1 & 2)

Two Oaks

*Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live.
A place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
all are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.*

*Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true.
Where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus;
all are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.*

CALL TO PRAYER

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND RECONCILIATION

One: We are descendants of your righteous ones,
those who obeyed, your Beloved children,
greeting your covenant with joyous praise
through fearful nights and problem laden days.

**All: You were our refuge through all times of change,
when the world seemed harsh and strange.
We followed your lead even when the path was obscured,
the way to grace hidden behind our own fear.**

One: God, we witness the violence of the world,
too often callously dispensed against the most vulnerable,
too often targeting our Black, Latinx, and Indigenous siblings.
You deliver us from a world filled with inequities.

**All: Forgive us, God, for breaking our covenants.
Forgive us, God, for those moments when we stayed silent
and ignored your command to speak.
Forgive us, God, for those times when we witnessed harm and did not intervene.
Forgive us, O God, for those moments when we forgot
to act always in love for one another.**

One: We have been blessed with gifts so manifold!
Heaven and earth, and wonders yet untold
proclaim your love divine, O God of Light.

**All: May we, your people, reaffirm our covenant in your name
ledging to walk as allies, as disciples, as friends
committed to the Way of your child Jesus. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

One: The peace of God be with you.

All: And also with you.

HYMN

The Spirit in Me

by Jim Strathdee

***The Spir-it in me greets the Spir-it in you. A-le-lu-ia!
God's in us, and we're in God. A-le-lu-ia!***

A TIME WITH CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 10:40-42

GLORIA PATRI

Greatorex

*Glo-ry to the Cre-a-tor, the Christ, the Ho-ly Spir-it, Three-in-One;
as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now and ever shall be,
world with-out end. A-men. A-men.*

SERMON

Opportunities for Welcome

Rev. Jessica Petersen

PAUSE

HYMN

All Are Welcome (vs. 3)

Two Oaks

*Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground, where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us;
all are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.*

OPEN AND AFFIRMING COVENANT AND PRAYER

One: Let us now remind ourselves of the welcome we are committed to offering as an Open and Affirming congregation.

All: We, Congregational United Church of Christ, Newton, Iowa acknowledge that we are intentionally inclusive of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

One: Within our congregational life, we make a conscious and deliberate decision to celebrate the Creator's diversity as uniquely embodied in lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

All: We invite and welcome into our faith community persons of every gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, ability, age, race, nationality, economic and social status, faith background, marital standing and family structure.

One: In our community of faith, all people are encouraged to participate and share their talents and energy in worship and sacraments, leadership positions, authorized ministry, lay ministry, learning, service, mission and fellowship.

All: We believe that this welcome is the living of our congregational statement: No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome in Congregational United Church of Christ.

One: Gracious God, you love all that you have created, and you celebrate the diversity of your creation. Throughout your history with your people, you have reminded us that those whom the world sees as the least are the greatest in your eyes.

All: We ask that you give us the grace to celebrate with our gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender siblings as they choose to live authentically in the world. Teach us to honor and celebrate their gifts and help us to create a world in which gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender teenagers and adults are loved, accepted, and celebrated in every gathering and every congregation. We ask this in your many names. Amen.

PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR (*Options for "Father" include "Mother," "Creator," "Parent.")

**Our Father* who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY

Lasst Uns Erfreuen

***Praise God from whom all bles-sings flow,
praise God all crea-tures here be-low. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
Praise God for all that love has done,
Cre-a-tor, Christ, and Spir-it, One. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!***

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CLOSING HYMN

All Are Welcome (vs. 4 & 5)

Two Oaks

***Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone,
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face.
Let us bring an end to fear and danger:
all are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.***

***Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Build of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace.
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
all are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.***

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Resources:

Today's "Call to Worship" (written by Kimi Floyd Reisch "Prayer for Transformation and Reconciliation" (based on We are Descendants by Lavon Baylor with edits by Kimi Floyd Reisch), and the "Open and Affirming Prayer" (revised from Religious Institute; added to Newton Congregational UCC's Open and Affirming Covenant) can be found at <https://openandaffirming.org/worship/>.

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