**Community Congregational Church of Clinton Heights, UCC**

**February 12, 2023**

**Rev. Kathy Johnson**

**Welcome**

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

**Call to Worship** from Luke 9:51-62

One: We have been called here to face into God’s gracious way of living. We are to leave the past behind us and walk into these new days of our ministry.

**All: Sometimes we’d rather remember how things used to be. Sometimes we are afraid to be disciples.**

One: But this is a new day, and Christ is sharing freedom with us. It is a day to put aside all fear, to leave doubting behind, and to take courage in God’s loving call.

**All: we will look to the new day, and we will set ourselves on the Jerusalem road. We will strive for faithfulness, even at the cost of popularity, and we will be disciples of Christ, renewing and healing the world around us.**

**Amen.**

**Opening Prayer: Dear Parent God, We are your children, and we are still learning. We listen to your words from the Bible, but we don’t always know what you mean. As we begin worship today, help us to open our hearts, our minds, and our ears so that we may not only hear your words, but that we may also understand your message.**

**In Christ’s name we pray, Amen.**

**\*Hymn – They’ll know we are Christians, 494**

**Children’s Sermon**

**Scripture Readings: Isaiah 58: 9-12**

**\*Hymn -** Ancient Words

**Sermon: We are the Church**

**Prayers for others and ourselves**

**Lord’s Prayer** (using debts/debtors)

**\*Hymn I Love to Tell the Story, 480**

**Offering**

**\*Doxology**

**\*Hymn Lift Every Voice and Sing**

**Announcements**

**Commission and Benediction Postlude**

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**Manage your giving online:**

Community Congregational Church is excited to announce that you can now manage your giving online! Giving online is easy and allows you to set up automatic recurring contributions and view your complete online giving history from anywhere you have access to the Internet. Simply follow these easy steps:

1) Visit the church website at **www.clintonheightsucc.org**,

2) Click on the **Donate Now** button,

3) Click on the **Create Profile** button, then

4) Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and to schedule your recurring contribution.

Isaiah 58: 9-12 The Message

 “If you get rid of unfair practices,
    quit blaming victims,
    quit gossiping about other people’s sins,
If you are generous with the hungry
    and start giving yourselves to the down-and-out,
Your lives will begin to glow in the darkness,
    your shadowed lives will be bathed in sunlight.
I will always show you where to go.
    I’ll give you a full life in the emptiest of places—
    firm muscles, strong bones.
You’ll be like a well-watered garden,
    a gurgling spring that never runs dry.
You’ll use the old rubble of past lives to build anew,
    rebuild the foundations from out of your past.
You’ll be known as those who can fix anything,
    restore old ruins, rebuild and renovate,
    make the community livable again.