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

**March 26, 2023**

**Rev. Kathy Johnson**

**Welcome**

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

**Call to Worship, Psalm 130**
One:Help, God—I’ve hit rock bottom!
**All: Master, hear my cry for help!**One:Listen hard! Open your ears! Listen to my cries for mercy.

**All: If you, God, kept records on wrongdoings, who would stand a chance?**One: As it turns out, forgiveness is your habit, and that’s why you’re worshiped.

**All: I pray to God—my life is a prayer— and wait for what God will say and do.**One:My life’s on the line before God, my Lord, waiting and watching till morning,
**All: waiting and watching till morning.**

One:O people, wait and watch for God—
**All: with God’s arrival comes love,**One: with God’s arrival comes generous redemption.
**All: No doubt about it—God will redeem us, and bring us back from being held captive by sin. Amen.**

**Opening Prayer: Loving God, as we sit here, we arrive into your presence, and your presence arrives within us. We have been waiting and watching for you all night, yes, all week, and now we feel your arrival. We know of this, and we welcome you in this time and in this place, to watch as your will be done through us. In Christ’s name we pray, Amen.**

**\*Hymn – Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee, 2**

**Children’s Sermon**

**Scripture Readings:** Romans 8:6-11

**\*Hymn -** Ancient Words

**Sermon: Whose will be Done??**

**Prayers for others and ourselves**

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

**\*Hymn – All Things Bright and Beautiful, 61**

**Offering**

**\*Doxology**

**\*Hymn – Here I Am, Lord, 452**

**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.

Scripture:

Romans 8:6-11, The Message Translation

**5-8**Those who think they can do it on their own end up obsessed with measuring their own moral muscle but never get around to exercising it in real life. Those who trust God’s action in them find that God’s Spirit is in them—living and breathing God! Obsession with self in these matters is a dead end; attention to God leads us out into the open, into a spacious, free life.

Focusing on the self is the opposite of focusing on God. Anyone completely absorbed in self ignores God, ends up thinking more about self than God. That person ignores who God is and what God is doing. And God isn’t pleased at being ignored.

**9-11**But if God has taken up residence in your life, you can hardly be thinking more of yourself than of God. Anyone, of course, who has not welcomed this invisible but clearly present God, the Spirit of Christ, won’t know what we’re talking about. But for you who welcome God, in whom God dwells—even though you still experience all the limitations of sin—you yourself experience life on God’s terms.

It stands to reason, doesn’t it, that if the alive-and-present God who raised Jesus from the dead moves into your life, God will do the same thing in you that God did in Jesus, bringing you alive to God? When God lives and breathes in you (and God does, as surely as God did in Jesus), you are delivered from that dead life. With God’s Spirit living in you, your body will be as alive as Christ’s!