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

**April 16, 2023**

**Rev. Kathy Johnson**

**Welcome**

**No matter who you are, you are welcome here!**

**Call to Worship:**

One: Come one, come all, to this time.

**ALL: We rejoice in this time!**

One: Come one, come all, to this place.

**ALL: We rejoice in this place!**

One: We come to praise God in community, here and now

**ALL: Thank you God! Amen!**

**Opening Prayer:**

**Dear Creator God, you made the air! You made the water! You made the earth! You made fire! All of these things we are so grateful for. We took the things you made, and created many things new, not all of which are beneficial. Today, be with us as we look at this time and this place, which we made. May their uses be for the benefit of all. In Christ’s name we pray, Amen.**

**Hymn – Spirit, 249**

**Children’s Sermon: Telling Time**

# Scripture Readings: 1 Peter 1:3-9

**Hymn -** Ancient Words

**Sermon: The Future is Now**

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

**Prayers for others and ourselves**

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

**Offering**

**Doxology**

**Hymn – Be Thou My Vision, 595**

**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.

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# 1 Peter 1:3-9

# The Message

### A New Life

**3-5**What a God we have! And how fortunate we are to have him, this Father of our Master Jesus! Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we’ve been given a brand-new life and have everything to live for, including a future in heaven—and the future starts now! God is keeping careful watch over us and the future. The Day is coming when you’ll have it all—life healed and whole.

**6-7**I know how great this makes you feel, even though you have to put up with every kind of aggravation in the meantime. Pure gold put in the fire comes out of it *proved* pure; genuine faith put through this suffering comes out *proved* genuine. When Jesus wraps this all up, it’s your faith, not your gold, that God will have on display as evidence of his victory.

**8-9**You never saw him, yet you love him. You still don’t see him, yet you trust him—with laughter and singing. Because you kept on believing, you’ll get what you’re looking forward to: total salvation.

