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

**May 7, 2023**

**Rev. Kathy Johnson**

**Guest Pianist: Rev. Barb Floryshak**

**Welcome**

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

**Call to Worship:**

One: We give thanks for this morning.

**ALL: Lord God, we have such gratitude in our hearts!**

One: We give thanks for this Sunday.

**ALL: Lord God, we have such gratitude in our hearts!**

One: We give thanks for this time together in worship.

**ALL: Lord God, we have such gratitude in our hearts!**

One: Let us worship God.

**Opening Prayer: Dear Loving Creator, you gave us Jesus, his life, his teachings, and his ministry to heal us from the wounds of living on this earth. Help us today to become closer to you and closer to Jesus, as we worship as one community, as we share communion, as we sing and as we pray. In Christ’s name we pray, Amen.**

**Hymn – Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ, 422**

**Children’s Sermon: Who Loves You?**

**Communion**

**Scripture Readings:** Acts 7:51-60

**Hymn -** Ancient Words

**Sermon: Mob Psychology - Who are You?**

**Hymn – Open My Eyes, That I May See, 586**

**Prayers for others and ourselves**

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

**Offering**

**Doxology**

**Hymn – I’ve Got Peace Like a River, 530**

**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.

Acts 7:51-60

The Message

**51-53**“And you continue, so bullheaded! Calluses on your hearts, flaps on your ears! Deliberately ignoring the Holy Spirit, you’re just like your ancestors. Was there ever a prophet who didn’t get the same treatment? Your ancestors killed anyone who dared talk about the coming of the Just One. And you’ve kept up the family tradition—traitors and murderers, all of you. You had God’s Law handed to you by angels—gift-wrapped!—and you squandered it!”

**54-56**At that point they went wild, a rioting mob of catcalls and whistles and invective. But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, hardly noticed—he only had eyes for God, whom he saw in all his glory with Jesus standing at his side. He said, “Oh! I see heaven wide open and the Son of Man standing at God’s side!”

**57-58**Yelling and hissing, the mob drowned him out. Now in full stampede, they dragged him out of town and pelted him with rocks. The ringleaders took off their coats and asked a young man named Saul to watch them.

**59-60**As the rocks rained down, Stephen prayed, “Master Jesus, take my life.” Then he knelt down, praying loud enough for everyone to hear, “Master, don’t blame them for this sin”—his last words. Then he died.

Saul was right there, congratulating the killers.

