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

**June 11, 2023**

**Rev. Paul Dodenhoff**

**Welcome**

**Call to Worship**

One: For the expanding grandeur of Creation, worlds known and unknown, galaxies beyond galaxies, filling us with awe and challenging our imaginations:  
**All**: **We give thanks this day.**One:  For this fragile planet earth, its times and tides, its sunsets and seasons:  
**All: We give thanks this day.**One: For the joy of human life, its wonders and surprised, its hopes and achievements:  
**All: We give thanks this day.**One:For our human community, our common past and future hope, our oneness transcending allseparation, our capacity to work for peace and justice in the midst of hostility and oppression:

**All: We give thanks this day.**

One: For high hopes and noble causes, for faith without fanaticism, for understanding of views not shared:

**All: We give thanks this day.**One: For all who have labored and suffered for a fairer world, who have lived so that others might live in dignity and freedom:

**All: We give thanks this day.**One: For human liberty and sacred rites; for opportunities to change and grow, to affirm and choose:

**All: We give thanks this day. We pray that we may live not by our fears but by our hopes, not by our words but by our deeds.**

**Opening Prayer: Spirit of Life and Love, we are all wrapped in your intricate web of mutuality. The life energy that makes us reach for the sun also moves us to become wrapped, like a vine and around those we meet and love. Here in the tangle of our daily lives we feel your pulse and sense of what it means to be alive. Spirit of Life, help us to experience the beauty of this interwoven and intricate web, that we may always embrace, without reserve, all those whom our lives touch.**

**Amen.**

**Hymn – From the Inside Out (by Dan Samson)**

**Children’s Sermon**

**Scripture Readings:** MATTHEW 13: 31-35 (New International Version)

**Hymn -** Ancient Words

**Sermon: The Kin-dom of Beloved Community**

**Hymn – Lift Every Voice and Sing, 631**

**Prayers for others and ourselves**

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

**Offering**

**Doxology**

**Hymn – Blessed Assurance, 543**

**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.

**MATTHEW 13: 31-35 (New International Version)**

31He told them another parable: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. 32Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.’

33He told them still another parable: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about thirty kilograms of flour until it worked all through the dough.’

34Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd in parables; he did not say anything to them without using a parable. 35So was fulfilled what was spoken through the prophet:

‘I will open my mouth in parables,  
    I will utter things hidden since the creation of the world.’