Community Congregational Church
of Clinton Heights, UCC

**November 5, 2023**

**The Reverend Sarah A. Bowen**

### Welcome

### Call to Worship

One: Holy One, Provider

**Many: Our ever-present help**

One: In our troubles and worry

**Many: You remind us of your presence**

One: In our sadness and grief

**Many: You remind us you are here**

One: With a love that conquers death

**Many: You remind us you will not abandon us**

One: Holy! Holy! Holy!

**Many: To the Ever-present One**

**All: Amen.**

Opening Prayer

**It’s so easy for us to get caught up in our human-made divisions. Whether survival**

**Instincts or capitalistic drive, we separate ourselves from those who don’t look, think, or act like us. We unintentionally allow our differences to stain the beauty of your diversity. Our many different households, family structures, belief systems, and various identities become tools of divisiveness rather than gifts of the divine. Yet, even when we cling to**

**the things that unnecessarily separate us, God chooses to love us back to wholeness,**

**individually and communally. May our prayers today implore God to restore balance**

**to the broken places in our world, bring peace to the places overflowing with violence and suffering, and bring love to the places where we see hate.**

**Hymn # 480**

**I Love to Tell the Story**

Children’s Sermon
*The Importance of Being YOU!*

Scripture Reading

*Matthew 23:1-12*

**Hymn – Ancient Words**

Sermon

*Practicing What We Preach*

**Hymn # 545**

**He Leadeth Me**

Prayers for Others & Ourselves

Lord’s Prayer
(using debts/debtors)

Offering

**Doxology**

**Hymn # 431**

**Go My Children**

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 23:1-12
New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

**23** Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, 2 “The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses’s seat; 3 therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it, but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach. 4 They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of others, but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them. 5 They do all their deeds to be seen by others, for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long. 6 They love to have the place of honor at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues 7 and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces and to have people call them rabbi. 8 But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brothers and sisters. 9 And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father, the one in heaven. 10 Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah. 11 The greatest among you will be your servant. 12 All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.