



CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
30 N. CLINTON ST.  
IOWA CITY, IA 52245  
319-337-4301

WORSHIP FOR JANUARY 15, 2023  
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY  
THE REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. SUNDAY

“And we went before the fire hoses; we had known water. If we were Baptists or some other denomination, we had been immersed. If we were Methodist, and some others, we had been sprinkled, but we knew water. That couldn’t stop us....and we’d go on before the water hoses and would look at it and we’d just go on singing ‘Over my head I see freedom in the air.’”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

PRELUDE “There Is a Balm in Gilead” arr. Mark Hayes

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Andrea Rauer, Liturgist

CHORAL INTROIT

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Come now to worship God with justice and truth.

**Let us speak the truth to one another,  
rendering true judgments that make for peace.**

Let justice roll down like waters,  
and righteousness like an everflowing stream.

**Teach us, O God, to do good, seek justice,  
rescue the oppressed, defend the helpless.**

Hear God's demand and promise:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,

**for soon my salvation will come,  
and my deliverance will be revealed.**

**\*HYMN 563 "Lift Every Voice and Sing" James Weldon Johnson, J. Rosamond Johnson**

**Lift every voice and sing**

**'Til earth and heaven ring**

**Ring with the harmonies of Liberty**

**Let our rejoicing rise**

**High as the listening skies**

**Let it resound loud as the rolling sea**

**Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us**

**Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us**

**Facing the rising sun of our new day begun**

**Let us march on 'til victory is won**

**Stony the road we trod**

**Bitter the chastening rod**

**Felt in the days when hope unborn had died**

**Yet with a steady beat**

**Have not our weary feet**

**Come to the place for which our parents sighed?**

**We have come over a way that with tears has been watered**

**We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered**

**Out from the gloomy past**

**'Til now we stand at last**

**Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast**

**God of our weary years**

**God of our silent tears**

**Thou who has brought us thus far on the way**

**Thou who has by Thy might**

**Led us into the light**

**Keep us forever in the path, we pray**

**Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee**

**Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee  
Shadowed beneath Thy hand  
May we forever stand  
True to our God  
True to our native land**

\*OPENING PRAYER (A prayer of Martin Luther King, Jr.)

**God, we thank you for the inspiration of Jesus. Grant that we will love you with all our hearts, souls, and minds, and love our neighbors as we love ourselves, even our enemy neighbors. And we ask you, God, in these days of emotional tension, when the problems of the world are gigantic in extent and chaotic in detail, to be with us in our going out and our coming in, in our rising up and in our lying down, in our moments of joy and in our moments of sorrow, until the day when there shall be no sunset and no dawn. Amen.**

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (411, VS. 1 & 4)

**Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;  
Show forth the glory of your God, Which shines on you today.**

**Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!  
Rise up like eagles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.**

ANTHEM "Great Day" Moses Hogan

#### THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Questions for the parents and the congregation

Prayer

The baptisms of Oliver Bruce Reynolds and Piper Marion Reynolds

#### TIME OF PRAYER

Prayers of the People

Silent Prayer

The Prayer of Our Savior

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Choral Response

#### SERVICE OF GIVING

Invitation

Offertory "Give Me Jesus" arr. Mark Hayes

\*Response

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise Christ, all creatures here below,  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

\*Prayer of Dedication

(At this time, children are dismissed to attend Children's Church.)

SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 41:8-10

PSALM 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills;  
from where is my help to come?

**My help comes from the Lord,  
the maker of heaven and earth.**

The Lord will not let your foot be moved,  
and the One who watches over you will not fall asleep.

**Behold, the One who keeps watch over Israel  
shall neither slumber nor sleep;**

it is the Lord who watches over you;  
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,  
**so that the sun shall not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.**

The Lord shall preserve you from all evil;  
the Lord shall keep you safe.

**The Lord shall watch over your going out and your  
coming in, from this time forth forevermore.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON John 2:1-11

SERMON "God in the Kitchen"

\*RESPONSE OF FAITH

[Adapted from the sermon, "Our God Is Able," by Martin Luther King, Jr.]

Let us declare our faith and hope together:

**We believe in God, at work in the world,  
transforming death into life.**

**We believe that God is able to change  
desolate valleys into paths of joy;**

**to give tired feet strength  
for striding toward the city of freedom;**

**to create courage in us  
for facing the uncertainties of the future,**

**and to give us power to endure  
that which cannot be changed.**

**When our days become dreary,  
and our nights darker**

**than a thousand midnights,  
we believe that God is able  
to make a way out of no way**

**and transform dark yesterdays into bright tomorrows.  
This is our hope for becoming a better people.  
This is our hope for making a better world.  
Amen! Thanks be to God!**

\*HYMN (insert) "O God of Justice"

\*BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE "In Christ There Is No East or West" Dale Wood

"Arise, Your Light is Come!" Ruth Duck, Words - ©1992 GIA Publications, Inc. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-715458. All rights reserved.

Minister:	The Rev. Bill Lovin
Director of Children's Programs:	The Rev. Ann Molsberry
Organist:	Bill Crouch
Choir Director	Chris Nakielski
Office Manager	Jenn Harden

**WE'RE GLAD THAT YOU HAVE JOINED US FOR WORSHIP THIS MORNING.** We are putting the safety of both the vaccinated and the unvaccinated in our congregation and the community first. Masks are highly recommended. Everyone is invited to Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall after worship.

**THIS MORNING WE BAPTIZE** Oliver Bruce Reynolds and Piper Marion Reynolds, the son and daughter of Eric and Lauren Reynolds and the grandson and granddaughter of Bruce Reynolds and Kathy Thede-Reynolds.

**THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED TOMORROW**, Monday, January 16, in observance of the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.

**THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION OF THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC OF IOWA CITY** will be held in the sanctuary following our worship on Sunday, January 29, 2023. We will receive reports of Boards and Committees, vote on the budget for 2023, and transact any other business that is fitting and necessary.

**THE YOUTH GROUP WILL MEET HERE AT OUR CHURCH TODAY, SUNDAY, JANUARY 15TH FROM 3-4:30.** We will be making fleece blankets to donate to the Ronald McDonald Hospitality House.

**CELEBRATE MLK HUMAN RIGHTS WEEK WITH FREE SCREENING OF "SELMA"** at FilmScene. FilmScene and Green State Credit Union will present a free screening of "Selma" in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Human Rights Week. The screening will take place at 6:30 p.m., Jan. 17, at FilmScene, 404 E College St. #100.

Ava DuVernay's powerful film chronicles the work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (David Oyelowo) to secure equal voting rights in the face of violent opposition. The epic march from Selma to Montgomery culminated in President Johnson signing the Voting Rights Act of 1965, one of the most significant victories for the civil rights movement. RSVP for a free ticket [here](#). Additional information can be found [here](#).

**BETHEL A.M.E. CHURCH- MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. PROGRAM ON MONDAY, JANUARY 16, AT 2 PM AT BETHEL**, 411 South Governor in Iowa City. Reverend Dial and Reverend Beachy (East Union Mennonite Church) are the guest speakers and they have asked the choirs from both churches to offer several musical selections. They have also invited Charism to offer several musical selections. There will also be several poetry selections. Everyone is invited.

**THE WOMEN'S LUNCH WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, AT MIDTOWN RESTAURANT, HIGHWAY ONE (BY WAL-MART)** at 11:45AM. Call or text Martha Ann Crawford—319-855-8340—to reserve a seat.

**A NEW MEMBER CLASS CONCLUDES THIS WEEK.** If you are interested in joining Congregational UCC or would like more information, please talk with Bill Lovin.

**THE SUNDAY MORNING ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY:** *Who and What is the Holy Spirit?* led by Rev. Patte Henderson, will conclude next Sunday. Patte is leading an exploration of biblical and theological thought on the Holy Spirit, at 9:15 a.m. Join us for discussion on this little-talked-about person of the Trinity.

**HOPE LODGE:** Our next Hope Lodge dinner will be on Monday, January 23. Please see the sign-up sheet in Rockwood Hall if you would like to participate.

**YOU CAN HELP WITH THE FREE LUNCH PROGRAM THIS MONTH.** The Free Lunch Program is continuing to serve lunches. Members of Congregational UCC serve on the fifth Monday of any month. Our next serving date is January 30 and if you are interested in helping in any way, please contact Vicki Thomae at [vickithomae@gmail.com](mailto:vickithomae@gmail.com)

**STAR WORD-** You are invited to select a Star Word from our bulletin board in Rockwood Hall. Your Star Word is a word that you can use as a guiding star to draw you closer to God in the coming year. Randomly choose one of these words quickly and tuck it into your pocket, your wallet, or pin it on a bulletin board, post it on a bathroom mirror, or stick it on the fridge or the dashboard of the car...display the word somewhere where you will see it regularly. Spend some time thinking about how this Star Word reminds you how God is manifest in your life...at this moment. This word is your guiding star for this year, it is inspired by the way God used a star to guide the Magi to Jesus.

**SACRED CONVERSIONS TO END RACISM:** 1.5 day Intensive Workshop on Zoom, March 24-25. The Congregational UCC Mission Board is sponsoring a 2-day workshop on Zoom for members of the congregation. Our instructor will be Rev. Dr. Velda Love, national UCC Lead for Join the Movement Toward Racial Justice and Minister for Racial Justice. Details can

be found in the Newsletter and periodic Bulletins. If you are interested in registering send an email to: [donna-hirst@uiowa.edu](mailto:donna-hirst@uiowa.edu).

**THE CHURCH COUNCIL IS SEEKING A VOLUNTEER TO SCAN AND ORGANIZE THE HISTORICAL ANNUAL REPORTS.** For more information, please contact the Church office.

**SEE SOMETHING—SAY SOMETHING:** If you notice something in the building that needs attention—a leaky faucet, a loose railing, etc.—please let the church office or Trustee Chairperson, Kevin Richards, know right away. You can reach Kevin at (608) 807-7195 or at [kd Richards1958@gmail.com](mailto:kd Richards1958@gmail.com). Thanks.

**USHERS, GREETERS, AND HOSPITALITY OPPORTUNITIES:** There are still some opportunities to greet people coming to worship, to usher, and to provide hospitality during coffee hour after worship during January and February. Don't miss your chance. Please sign up on the sheets in Rockwood Hall or call the church office--319-337-4031.

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO SERVE AS A LITURGIST ON SUNDAY MORNING?** This is a great opportunity to welcome people and to lead them in worship. Bill Lovin provides the material. You provide the spirit. Contact Bill if you are interested or would like more information.



Want to give online? Scan the QR code for our giving app.  
Your giving makes a world of difference.

**WE LIVE STREAM OUR WORSHIP SERVICES AT 10:15 ON SUNDAY MORNING.** You can join us online in real time at <https://vimeo.com/event/1424751>. This streaming address is the same each week.

**RECORDINGS OF THE WORSHIP SERVICES** are posted after worship on Sunday at <https://vimeo.com/channels/154m7852>. The recordings remain up permanently, so you can watch past worship services at your convenience or recommend them to a friend.