



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

WORSHIP FOR OCTOBER 22, 2023  
TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

"The Church exists by mission, just as a fire exists by burning. Where there is no mission there is no Church; and where there is neither Church nor mission, there is no faith."

Emil Brunner

PRELUDE "Andante" Flor Peeters

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chuck Connerly, Liturgist

## CHORAL INTROIT

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Use your voice for praise. Sing and dance. Let joy have its way in you.

**For we live and belong, we grow and thrive in God's great care.**

Come in and give thanks, move with joy and celebrate the gift of life.

**From the beginning of time God has poured out love, and love will be with us forever.**

### \*HYMN 408 (vs. 1-4)

“Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life”

**Where cross the crowded ways of life,  
where sound the cries of race and clan,  
above the noise of selfish strife,  
we hear thy voice, O Son of man.**

**In haunts of wretchedness and need,  
on shadowed thresholds fraught with fears,  
from paths where hide the lures of greed,  
we catch the vision of thy tears.**

**From tender childhood's helplessness,  
from human grief and burdened toil,  
from famished souls, from sorrow's stress,  
thy heart has never known recoil.**

**The cup of water given for thee still  
holds the freshness of thy grace;  
yet long these multitudes to view  
the sweet compassion of thy face.**

### \*OPENING PRAYER

River of Life and Love, we gather under the shower of your Spirit to be refreshed by overflowing kindness.

**Pour into us this day wisdom that welcomes all, compassion that sees into the heart of community, and love that embodies the ways of Christ. Amen. May it be so.**

### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Tightly bound within familiar worlds and too often sealed off from the worlds of others, we now take our leave for a more fertile place:

**We seek an openness of heart. We seek the pulse of the Spirit. We seek an ability to perceive. We seek the capacity to feel and to act with compassion for others.**

In your forgiveness, O God, return us to broader perspectives and a firmer courage to live in the realm of Christ.

**We seek an openness of heart. We seek the pulse of the Spirit. We seek an ability to see. We seek the capacity to feel and to act with compassion for others. Amen.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Friends, the grace and wisdom of God always breaks open new ways of being and doing. It always gives rise to more generous and fresh expressions of humanity. So let us be a compassionate and healing presence of Christ within the world.

ANTHEM                    “Thee, Lord, Would I Serve”                    Mark Bender

**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                    “Prelude in E Major” Josef Renner

\*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

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

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

SCRIPTURE LESSON                    Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

**PSALM 100**

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.

**Worship the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing.**

Know that the LORD is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

**Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.**

**For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON                    Matthew 25:31-46

SERMON “Membership and Mission”

\*HYMN 386 “O for a World”

**O for a world where everyone  
respects each other's ways,  
where love is lived and all is done  
with justice and with praise.**

**O for a world where goods are shared  
and misery relieved,  
where truth is spoken, children spared,  
equality achieved.**

**We welcome one world family  
and struggle with each choice  
that opens us to unity  
and gives our vision voice.**

**The poor are rich, the weak are strong,  
the foolish ones are wise.  
Tell all who mourn, outcasts belong,  
who perishes will rise.**

**O for a world preparing for  
God's glorious reign of peace,  
where time and tears will be no more,  
and all but love will cease.**

\*BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE “Voluntary” John E. West

Cover Graphic—designed by Congregational UCC member, Robyn Hepker, for this year’s stewardship theme, “Living Generously.”

“O for a World” Words - ©1990 Medical Mission Sisters. Contributor: Miriam Therese Winter. Reprinted with the kind permission of the Medical Mission Sisters. All rights reserved.

Minister:	The Rev. Bill Lovin
Director of Children’s Programs:	The Rev. Ann Molsberry
Organist:	Bill Crouch
Choir Director	Chris Nakielski

Children's Choir Director  
Office Manager

Majesty Constable  
Jenn Harden

#### TODAY

❖	Church School Breakfast	9:00 am
	Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am
	Christian Education	9:15 am
	Worship Service	10:15 am
	Children's Church	During Worship
	Choir Rehearsal	After Worship
	Youth Group	4:00 pm

#### TUESDAY

❖	Church Council	7:00 pm
---	----------------	---------

#### NEXT SUNDAY

❖	Church School Breakfast	9:00 am
	Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am
	Christian Education	9:15 am
	Worship Service	10:15 am
	Children's Church	During Worship
	Choir Rehearsal	After Worship

#### **WE'RE GLAD THAT YOU HAVE JOINED US FOR WORSHIP THIS MORNING.**

Everyone is invited to Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall after worship. Masks are welcome.

#### **WE WELCOME THE REV. BOB MOLSBERY TO OUR PULPIT THIS MORNING.**

Bob is a retired UCC minister, a member of our congregation, and can usually be seen in the choir on Sunday mornings. Bill Lovin is taking this weekend off and will be back at the church on Monday.

**PLEASE HELP WITH PARKING IN THE CHURCH LOT:** A number of people currently have mobility issues and need to park in our small parking lot off of Jefferson St. If you are able, please park elsewhere so that the marked and unmarked spaces can be used by those who need them. Thanks.

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THE IMPACT OF IOWA'S NEW LAWS ON TRANS YOUNG PEOPLE,** you are welcome to attend a presentation at Oaknoll on Wednesday, October 25, at 1:30 p.m. "Protecting Iowa's Transgender Youth" will be presented by Connie Ryan, longtime executive director of the Interfaith Alliance of Iowa and Rev. Meg Wagner who serves directly under the Episcopal bishop of Iowa. For specific details contact Linda Muston, Mission Board member, via email at [lkhmust60@gmail.com](mailto:lkhmust60@gmail.com) or by phone or text at 319-400-0969.

**RUN FOR THE SCHOOLS—SUNDAY OCTOBER 29:** One of the joys of in-person worship is navigating the challenges presented by downtown events. The annual Run for the Schools will

be held on October 29. Some streets to the south and east of the church will be closed. College St. will be shut down from Linn St. to Muscatine Ave. Gilbert St. will be shut down from Burlington St. to Washington St. Dodge St. will be shut down and southbound traffic will be rerouted on to Washington St. Governor St. will be shut down and northbound traffic will be rerouted on to Burlington St. **The church and the parking lot will both be accessible.** It might take a few extra minutes to get to church that morning. Plan accordingly, but plan to worship with us. Race maps can be found [here](#).

**ALL SAINTS SUNDAY—NOVEMBER 5:** Each year on the First Sunday in November, Congregational UCC observes “All Saints Sunday.” This is a time for us to remember and give thanks to God for the lives of those members of Congregational UCC who have died in the past year—and for all the saints. Our worship service on this day is both solemn and joyful, befitting a congregation of people who live in the light of the resurrection. As is our custom, we will have a jazz band leading our worship on this Sunday in order to help us look toward that day when the saints go marchin’ in. The well-known local jazz pianist Dick Watson will again lead the music in what promises to be an inspiring event. Please plan to join us for this special time of worship as we give thanks for the lives of Sandy Boyd, Lee Wood, Marge Hoppin, and Candace Noble.

**WE WILL RECEIVE OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED (NIN) OFFERING ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5:** NIN is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the [Council for American Indian Ministry](#) (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice.

***WHY PEOPLE DON'T VOTE: DISAFFECTED VOTERS AND THE PROCESS OF DEMOCRACY:*** Tuesday, October 24, 6:30-8:00 p.m. at the Iowa City Public Library. Congregational UCC member and Distinguished University Professor of Political Science at the University of Iowa, Caroline Tolbert, will address the question: If voting is such a precious right, why does a large percentage of eligible voters opt not to participate in choosing our elected officials?

**OPEN HEARTLAND CHRISTMAS GIVING OPPORTUNITY:** If you would like to sponsor a family of 4, 5, 6, or 7+ people, please contact Deb Dunkhase at Open Heartland by Monday, November 6 or directly email their special email account just for holiday giving: [openheartlandholiday@gmail.com](mailto:openheartlandholiday@gmail.com). Indicate how large a family is desired, and Open Heartland will respond with the list of items from the family, then the shopping can begin. Other options for the Alternative Giving period in our church is a monetary donation, payable to Open Heartland, PO Box 3357 Iowa City, IA 52244. Last year OH was able to give each family a gift of \$100 to spend on what the family determines is needed.

**INSIDE OUT REENTRY COMMUNITY TRIVIA NIGHT:** Thursday, November 9, 7-9 p.m., Unitarian Universalist Society, 2355 Oakdale Rd., Coralville. Tickets are \$20/individual,

\$100/team of six. Book in advance at [www.insideoutreentry.com](http://www.insideoutreentry.com). Tickets are \$25/person at the door.

**OUR NEXT HOPE LODGE DINNER** will be Monday, November 13. There is a signup sheet in Rockwood Hall.

**NEW FURNACES AND AIR CONDITIONERS WERE INSTALLED IN THE SUMMER. HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP:** We received a major gift from a family in the congregation to help pay for the new units. Many other members would like to be a part of funding this project. Your gifts to the HVAC Fund will mean that we will need to use less of our reserves for this project. Thanks for your generous giving.

**DO YOU HAVE A CHURCH KEY?** We have made new keys and are working at getting a better list of people who have keys. If you have a key to the church, please contact Trustee Chairperson, Kevin Richards, at (608) 807-7195 or at [kdrichards1958@gmail.com](mailto:kdrichards1958@gmail.com). Thanks.

**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 [kdrichards1958@gmail.com](mailto:kdrichards1958@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. 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.