



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

WORSHIP FOR NOVEMBER 12, 2023  
TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

“In Montgomery during the bus boycott someone had asked an elderly woman why she was involved in our struggle. ‘I’m doing it for my children and for my grandchildren,’ she replied. Seven years later, the children and grandchildren were doing it for themselves.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

PRELUDE “Prelude on the Hymn tune BEACH SPRING” Setting by Wilbur Held

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Kathi Koegle

CHORAL INTROIT

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

Blessed be the name of God  
from this time on and forevermore.

**From the rising of the sun to its setting**

**the name of God is to be praised.**

It is good to give thanks to God,  
to sing praises to your name, O Most High;  
**to declare your steadfast love in the morning,  
and your faithfulness in the night.**

\*HYMN 479 "Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven"

**Praise, my soul, the God of heaven;  
glad of heart your carols raise;  
rescued, healed, restored, forgiven  
who, like me, should sing God's praise?  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise the Maker all your days!**

**Praise God for the grace and favor  
shown our forebears in distress;  
God is still the same forever,  
Slow to chide and swift to bless.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Sing our Maker's faithfulness!**

**Like a loving parent caring,  
God knows well our feeble frame;  
gladly all our burdens bearing,  
still to countless years the same.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
All within me, praise God's name!**

**Angels, teach us adoration,  
you behold God face to face;  
sun and moon and all creation,  
dwellers all in time and space.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
Praise with us the God of grace!**

\*OPENING PRAYER

**Eternal God, companion of all who seek you, and seeker of all who turn away from you,  
draw near to us that we may draw near to you, and grant us the grace to love and to serve  
you that we may find in your ways our true freedom; through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#479)

**Frail as summer's flower we flourish  
Blows the wind, and it is gone.  
But, while mortals rise and perish,  
God's compassion still lives on.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise the high eternal One**

ANTHEM    *“Hark I Hear the Harps Eternal”*    arr. Alice Parker and Robert Shaw

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 B-Flat 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

(The children are dismissed to Children’s Church)

SCRIPTURE LESSON    Deuteronomy 6:4-9

PSALM 78:1-8

Hear my teaching, O my people;  
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

**I will open my mouth in a parable;  
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.**

That which we have heard and known,  
and what our ancestors have told us,  
we will not hide from their children.

**We will recount to generations to come  
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord,  
and the wonderful works God has done.**

God set up decrees for Jacob  
and established a law for Israel,  
commanding them to teach it to their children;

**that the generations to come might know,  
that they in their turn might tell it to their children;**

so that they might put their trust in God,  
and not forget the deeds of God,

but keep God's commandments;  
**and not be like their ancestors,  
a stubborn and rebellious generation,**  
[Unison]  
**a generation whose heart was not steadfast,  
and whose spirit was not faithful to God.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON      James 3:13-18

SERMON      “Faith and the Well-Being of Children”

\*HYMN 418 “God, Bless Your Church with Strength”  
**God bless your church with strength!  
Wherever we may be,  
up build your servants as we work  
in common ministry.  
Urge us from fledgling faith  
to venture and to soar  
through open skies to sing the praise  
of Christ whom we adore.**

**God bless your church with life!  
May all our branches thrive,  
unblemished, wholesome, bearing fruit,  
abundantly alive.  
From you, one holy vine,  
in freedom may we grow;  
sustain us in our mission, Lord,  
your love and peace to show.**

**God bless your church with hope!  
Despite chaotic days,  
may we in chaos shine to light  
a pathway through life's maze.  
May justice be our aim,  
and kindness ours to share;  
in humbleness O may we walk,  
assured our God is there!**

\*BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE      “Postlude on the Hymn Tune FOUNDATION”      Setting by Wilbur Held

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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	Majesty Constable
Office Manager	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

#### TUESDAY

❖	Staff Meeting	Noon
	Membership Board	5:30 pm
	Board of Deacons	6:00 pm
	Trustees	7:00 pm
	Stewardship Board	8:00 p.m.

#### TUESDAY

❖	Women’s Lunch—Mexico Lindo Grill	11:45 am
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#### SATURDAY

❖	Men’s Breakfast—Waterfront Hy-Vee	8:00 am
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#### 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.

**ADULT EDUCATION LOOKS TOWARD ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS:** Join Marsha Lowe around the fireplace in Rockwood Hall at 9:15 on Sunday mornings. Come and experience Scripture passages leading up to and including the Christmas story.

11/19 Isaiah 40:3-5 and Matthew 3:1-17 Experiencing the Scriptures with the 5 Senses

*11/26 Thanksgiving Sunday - no adult education*

12/3 The Magnificat-Mary's Song Luke 1:46-55 Lectio Divina

*12/10 Special Music Sunday-no adult education*

12/17 The Christmas Story Luke 2:1-20 What does this say about God? about people? about the relationship between God and people?

**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.

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

**THE ADVENT LUNCH IS MAKING A COMEBACK!** It will be held following worship and Special Music on Sunday, December 10. There is a sign-up sheet in Rockwood Hall. The Membership Board is providing a main dish and the rest of the meal will be potluck. Plan to bring a salad, vegetable, bread, dessert, etc. to share.

**THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO GAVE TO OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED (NIN)**

**OFFERING ON NOVEMBER 5:** We received \$1075 for this 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. If you would still like to give to this offering, please write "NIN" in the memo line of your check.

**ALTERNATIVE GIVING FOR CHRISTMAS:** Our Mission Board is ready to help you with your Christmas giving. Our annual Alternative Giving Fair will be held in Rockwood Hall after worship on November 19 and December 3 & 17. If you have an idea for a sale item or would like to help in other ways, please contact Laurie Stunz ([laura-stunz@uiowa.edu](mailto:laura-stunz@uiowa.edu)). If you knit, please consider making mittens and scarves for the Mitten Tree. Donations of mittens and scarves will be directed to the Iowa City Schools. Think outside of the box and let your giving help others. Gifts can be made in honor of friends and family to the Heifer Project, Habitat for Humanity and Church World Service. We will put up the Mitten Tree and have gift tags available for CommUnity Crisis Center's Project Holiday and Toys for Tots. Members are providing quilts, jewelry, artwork and more for sale.

**THE ANNUAL SOUP LUNCHEON** hosted by Gloria Dei Lutheran Church is tomorrow, Monday, November 13, from 11:00am-1:00pm. They will accept free-will donations at the door. This event takes place during National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week and supports Shelter House. The community comes together to donate funds, clothes, and other important items to support the shelter; and to eat delicious soup! There are great volunteer opportunities for this event, and they need your help to fill them! Did they mention that volunteers get to eat for free? Interested in helping? Sign up to volunteer for the Soup Luncheon! Click the link to sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0C4EA4AE22ABF85-45834663-soup#/>

**OPEN HEARTLAND CHRISTMAS GIVING OPPORTUNITY:** Our friends at Open Heartland are working to support Latino immigrant families during the Christmas season. They are hosting their 5<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas celebration on Sunday, December 10. They plan to give a cash gift to each family to spend as they feel best accommodates their individual needs (rent, groceries, medical bills, etc.). Our Mission Board is providing \$400 toward this effort. If you would like to support this project you can send a monetary donation, payable to Open Heartland, PO Box 3357 Iowa City, IA 52244 or use VENMO@Open-Heartland. Last year OH was able to give each family a gift of \$100 to spend on what the family determines is needed.

**OPEN HEARTLAND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:** Open Heartland, an organization meeting a variety of needs of the Spanish speaking population of Iowa City, is seeking volunteers. Our youth are going to be getting involved, and this is an opportunity for adults in our congregation as well. Volunteer times and activities of sorting donations, packaging bulk foods and other needs are varied and flexible. If you are interested, contact Deb Dunkhase, the director, at [debdkhase@gmail.com](mailto:debdkhase@gmail.com) or call or text her at 319-321-5528. Or for a little more information, ask /Ray Muston or Jane Kinney about the organization.

**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.