



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

WORSHIP FOR NOVEMBER 13, 2022
TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

God doesn't give only for us to pass it on; God gives so that we ourselves can exist and flourish—and so that we can be flourishing rather than languishing givers. Some of us will find that God hasn't just given us gifts to enjoy and pass on but also a gift for giving them away. The best gift we can give to each other may be neither a thing nor an act, but our own generosity. With that 'indescribable gift' called Christ, God gave us a generous self and a community founded on generosity. My generosity is reciprocated by your generosity, and the circle of mutual love keeps turning.”
Miroslav Volf

PRELUDE “Prelude in F Major,” Op. 48, No. 29 Josef Renner

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Bea Hicks, Liturgist

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 will our true freedom; through Jesus Christ, the way, the
truth, and the life. 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 "O Sing unto the Lord" Peter Aston

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 "Andante" Flor Peeters

*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 Malachi 3:6-18

PSALM 37

Do not fret yourself because of evildoers;
do not be jealous of those who do wrong.

**For they shall soon wither like the grass,
and like the green grass fade away.**

Put your trust in the Lord and do good;
dwell in the land and feed on its riches.

**Take delight in the Lord,
who shall give you your heart's desire.**

Commit your way to the Lord; put your trust in the Lord,
who will bring it to pass.

**The Lord will make your righteousness as clear as the light
and your just dealing as the noonday.**

Be still before the Lord;
wait patiently for the Lord.

**Do not fret yourself over the one who prospers,
the one who succeeds in evil schemes.**

Refrain from anger, leave rage alone;
do not fret yourself; it leads only to evil.

**For evildoers shall be cut off,
but those who wait upon the Lord shall possess the land.**

In a little while the wicked shall be no more;
you shall search out their place, but they will not be there.

**But the lowly shall possess the land;
they will delight in abundance of peace.**

But the deliverance of the righteous comes from the Lord,
who is their stronghold in time of trouble.

**The Lord will help them and rescue them;
the Lord will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them,
because in the Lord they seek refuge.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 6:36-38

SERMON “Minor Prophets, Major Concerns: The Abundance of God”

*HYMN 553 “For the Fruit of All Creation”

**For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God;
for the gifts of every nation, thanks be to God;
for the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safe-keeping, thanks be to God.**

**In the just reward of labor, God's will is done;
in the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done;
in our world-wide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.**

**For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God;
for the good we all inherit, thanks be to God;
for the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.**

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “A Joyous Recessional” Matthew Corl

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Minister:	The Rev. Bill Lovin
Director of Children's Programs:	The Rev. Ann Molsberry

Organist:
Choir Director
Office Manager

Bill Crouch
Chris Nakielski
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.

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO GAVE TO OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED (NIN) OFFERING LAST SUNDAY. We received \$850. NIN is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. **You can still give—please write “NIN” on your check or envelope.**

THE WOMEN'S LUNCH will be held this Thursday, Nov.17, at Thai Spice on Gilbert St. Please text or call Martha Ann Crawford at 319-855-8340 to reserve a space.

THE MEN'S BREAKFAST will be held on Saturday, November 19, at the Riverfront Hy-Vee at 8:00 a.m. No reservation is necessary—just show up.

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED TO PREPARE AND SERVE THE HOPE LODGE DINNER Wednesday evening: Dianne Atkins, Rebecca Weatherford, Julie Wittig, Sharyn Reitz, Barb Hanson, Linda Muston, Chuck and Sue Dayton. The meal was much appreciated by the Hope Lodge residents.

A NEW THREE SESSION BIBLE STUDY looking at the story of the birth of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke will begin on Wednesday, November 30 at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom. If you are interested, please email or talk with Bill.

WE WILL BE PRESENTING BIBLES TO OUR THIRD GRADERS THIS YEAR ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, during worship. Because we are trying to include those children who moved through Third grade during our COVID sequester, we will also be including those who are in Fourth AND Fifth grade! There will be quite a few children receiving their Bibles. Please come and celebrate with us!

WE WILL HOST THE YOUTH GROUP HERE AT THE CONGREGATIONAL UCC ON SUNDAY NOVEMBER 20, from 3-5. They will be Geocaching downtown Iowa City. Don't know what that is? Ask a youth....AFTER Sunday, November 20th.

THE STEWARDSHIP BOARD WANTS TO THANK YOU for your generous gifts to support the ministry and mission of Congregational UCC again this year. In our presentations during the past several weeks you have heard about the great work these gifts have made possible. We are inspired by the compassion, caring, and community that we find here. If you haven't already, please prayerfully decide on the amount of your support for the coming year as you give thanks for God's surprising gifts. We ask that you fill out the pledge card and return it as soon as possible.

GIFTS FOR PARENTS, 9 A.M. – 1:30 P.M. ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 2675 E. Washington Street, Iowa City

An opportunity for kids, ages 4–14, to experience the joy of giving. Kids select up to 3 free gifts to give to important adults in their lives.

Donations and Volunteers are Needed!

Donations:

Faith community coordinators and individuals should deliver donated items to St. Mark's fellowship hall on Thursday, 12/1, at 9 am to 6:30 pm.

Items should be new, or gently used and clean. **NO** sized clothing; hats, gloves and scarves are welcome. Gifts for men are especially helpful. *For items requiring batteries, please supply batteries.* Suggested donations:

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|---|--|
| -caps, scarves, gloves | -flashlights (include batteries) |
| -jewelry, costume jewelry | -hand tool sets |
| -unique coffee mugs / cups | -craft items |
| -knick-knacks | -decorative key chain-gas prepaid cards |
| -wall art, shelf art, table art | -decorative soaps or bubble bath |
| -wallets & purses | -Amaryllis bulbs |
| -tree ornaments | -car emergency kits, ice scrapers / snow brushes |
| -scented lotion or after shave | -gift cards to local businesses |
| -scented/decorative candles | -tire pressure gauge |
| -kitchen gadgets: aprons, cutting boards, potholders, dish towels, etc. | -Hawkeye items |
| | -jigsaw puzzles, games & cards |

We also need donations of “Tall Kitchen” bags, small jewelry boxes, gift bags, bows, tape, & adhesive tags. **We do not need wrapping paper.**

Volunteers are needed for specific shifts within the broad time frames noted below:

- Set up/sorting on Thursday, December 1, 12–8:00 p.m.
- Set up/sorting on Friday, December 2, 9:00 a.m.-Noon
- Greeters, escorts, wrappers, cleanup, etc., Saturday, December 3, 8:30 a.m.–4 p.m.
- Assist the St Mark's Men's Group to prepare, serve & clean up after the pancake breakfast.

Get specific volunteer information and sign up to volunteer at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0B49A9AE2FA20-gifts1>

THE STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS AT THE CENTER FOR WORKER ARE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THE RETURN OF THEIR GIFT OF GIVING PROGRAM! The Gift of Giving initiative aims to connect local families with a sponsor who is willing to provide each family member with a gift. This year 30 families in need will be selected for the project. CWJ is currently looking for at least 1 sponsor per family. Sponsors can choose the size of family they would like to sponsor. Additionally, sponsors will receive information on members of their family such as age, gender, shoe size, shirt size, pant size, color preferences, and what the family needs most this year. If you or someone you know would like to be a sponsor, please fill out this form<<https://default.salsalabs.org/Tb5e665b2-ecd0-4103-a2c1-22dfc04815b4/30327e39-7511-423b-9906-e59cfda00b>>.

ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, THE CHAMBER SINGERS OF IOWA CITY steps into its next half century with a dazzling array of choral favorites spanning the Renaissance to 21st century. Johann Sebastian Bach's profound Cantata 131 *Aus der Tiefe* is the centerpiece of a concert that includes music by Roland de Lassus, Sergei Rachmaninoff, David Dickau, Amy Beach, Sarah Quartel, Moses Hogan, William Dawson, Gregory W. Brown, and others at Voxman at 3pm.

CHILDCARE IN THE CHURCH NURSERY is extended one hour from **9:15-12:30** on Sundays until December 20. This is to accommodate the extra choir practice for the adult choir.

USHERS, GREETERS, AND HOSPITALITY OPPORTUNITIES: As we continue to reopen, there are new 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.