



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

WORSHIP FOR NOVEMBER 26, 2023
TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

“The grace of God means something like: Here is your life. You might never have been, but you are because the party wouldn't have been complete without you. Here is the world. Beautiful and terrible things will happen. Don't be afraid. I am with you. Nothing can ever separate us. It's for you I created the universe. I love you. There's only one catch. Like any other gift, the gift of grace can be yours only if you'll reach out and take it. Maybe being able to reach out and take it is a gift too.”

Frederick Buechner

PRELUDE “All People That on Earth Do Dwell” Austin Lovelace

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Chuck Connerly, Liturgist

CHORAL INTROIT

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Awake! This is God's new day!

We lift our eyes to God.

Rise up and be aware!

We are God's people, come to worship and remember to whom we belong.

God has given us the gift of life and the grace of new life in Christ.

We gather in faith to celebrate with gratitude the love of God.

Come, let us worship God.

*HYMN #220 “All People That on Earth Do Dwell”

An early hymn from Psalm 100 that would have been integral to Pilgrim worship

**All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.
Him serve with mirth, His praise forth tell;
Come ye before Him and rejoice.**

**Know that the Lord is God indeed;
Without our aid He did us make;
We are His folk, He doth us feed,
And for His sheep He doth us take.**

**O enter then His gates with praise;
Approach with joy His courts unto;
Praise, laud, and bless His Name always,
For it is seemly so to do.**

**For why? the Lord our God is good;
His mercy is for ever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
And shall from age to age endure.**

*OPENING PRAYER

Gifted God, in your grace you set a table of plenty in our midst and invited us to find all that we need for an abundant life.

Thank you for your gifts of grace.

May we gratefully receive from your hand and extend our hands to one another in return, until all are deeply satisfied.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of light and darkness, of day and of night, we bring before you all that we have thought, said, and done. We confess the times we have tried to hide from you, when we have tried to ignore our call, pretended not to know what was going on around us, and sought to run away from responsibility.

**Forgive us for discounting the value of the wondrous gifts you have given to us and to others, and free us to live new lives as your children, forgiven and trusted by you.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news: God is a God of gracious care. God provided manna in the desert and water from a rock. Through Jesus Christ, God multiplied loaves and fish, and transformed water

*HYMN #234 “I To the Hills Will Lift My Eyes”
Another Psalter hymn that might have been part of Pilgrim worship

**I to the hills will lift my eyes;
From whence shall come my aid?
My help is from the Lord alone,
Who Heaven and earth has made.**

**He will not let your foot be moved,
Your Guardian never sleeps;
God's watchful and unslumbering care
Protects and safely keeps.**

**Your faithful keeper is the Lord,
Your shelter and your shade;
'Neath sun or moon, by day or night,
You shall not be afraid.**

**From evil He will keep you safe,
Provide for all you need;
Your going out, your coming in,
God will forever lead.**

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE “Postlude on the Hymn Tune OLD HUNDREDTH” Piet Post

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

❖	Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am
	Worship Service	10:15 am
	Choir Rehearsal	After Worship

TUESDAY

❖	Staff Meeting	Noon
	Church Council	7:00 pm

NEXT SUNDAY—FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

❖	Church School Breakfast	9:00 am
	Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am
	Christian Education	9:15 am
	Worship Service w/Communion	10:15 am
	Choir Rehearsal	After Worship
	Confirmation Class	4:00 pm

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 MOLSBERRY 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 on vacation and will be back at the church on Monday.

YOUTH GROUP IS MEETING THIS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26 at Open Heartland Center to help with Holiday sorting. We are meeting at Open Heartland Center at 3 E. Benton Street (the recycle center) at 4:00PM. Pick up there at 5:30PM.

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.

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.

CONTRIBUTE TO THIS YEAR'S CONGREGATIONAL UCC ADVENT CALENDAR—

"Keeping Watch Together." Submit a brief thought, a quote, an image, photo, drawing, or some other *brief* contribution for the days of Advent, December 3-23. Talk with Bill Lovin for more information.

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.

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 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). 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—cash or checks only, please.

BLESSING BAGS: Sunday School students will be collecting **NEW single-use personal care/hygiene products** for their January mission and outreach project: Epiphany Blessing Bags. Please contribute to this effort: toothpaste and toothbrush, hairbrush and comb, hand sanitizer, hand wipes, bars of soap, shampoo and conditioner, hand lotion, and Band-Aids. This is a perfect solution for distributing those hotel-sized products that are gathering dust in your bathroom drawers!! Please put these items in the brown baskets found in the Children's Corner. In addition, the students will be adding cash, breakfast bars, socks, and gloves to the Blessing Bags...so monetary gifts marked "Blessing Bags" can also be placed in the Offering plate on Sunday.

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 5th 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 or call or text her at 319-321-5528. Or for a little more information, ask /Ray Muston or Jane Kinney about the organization.

ADVENT BEGINS ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3. Our Advent and Christmas observances and celebrations renew some of our traditional activities and events and also bring some new possibilities. Here are some important dates:

December 3—First Sunday in Advent; Lighting of the Advent candles begins; Communion.

December 10—Second Sunday in Advent; Special Music Sunday; Advent Lunch after worship.

December 17—Third Sunday in Advent; Children's Christmas Pageant

December 20—Service of Solace—at 7:00 p.m.

December 24—Fourth Sunday of Advent; Worship at 10:15

Christmas Eve is Sunday, December 24—Worship at 5:30 p.m.; Gala Reception follows in Rockwood Hall

January 7—Epiphany Sunday; Communion

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 kd Richards1958@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 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. 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.