



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

WORSHIP FOR FEBRUARY 11, 2024  
SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

PRELUDE “Adagio” Colin Mawby

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Kevin Richards, Liturgist

CHORAL INTROIT

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 117)

Praise God, all you nations;  
give praise, all you people.

**For the loving-kindness of God toward us is great,  
and the faithfulness of God endures forever.**

**Alleluia!**

\*HYMN 285 “God You Spin the Whirling Planets”

**God, You spin the whirling planets,  
Fill the sea and spread the plain,  
Mold the mountains, fashion blossoms,  
Call forth sunshine, wind, and rain.  
We, created in Your image,  
Would a true reflection be  
Of Your justice, grace, and mercy  
And the truth that makes us free.**

**You have called us to be faithful  
In our life and ministry.  
We respond in grateful worship  
Joined in one community.  
When we blur Your gracious image,  
Focus us and make us whole.  
Healed and strengthened as Your people,  
We move onward toward Your goal.**

**God, Your word is still creating,  
Calling us to life made new.  
Now reveal to us fresh vistas  
Where there's work to dare and do.  
Keep us clear of all distortion.  
Polish us with loving care.  
Thus, new creatures in Your image,  
We'll proclaim Christ everywhere.**

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

**O God, we thank you for the day newly begun: for sleep behind us, light upon us, love around us; for the needs and hopes that we have in common with all people throughout the earth. God of darkness and dawn, shine into our lives at this hour. Awaken us with wonder; renew our hope and lift us above our despair. May we worship you now in spirit and in truth and serve you this day with gladness. Amen.**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#474, vs. 1 & 4)**

**O splendor of God's glory bright,  
From light eternal bringing light;  
Thou light of life, light's living spring,  
True day, all days illumining.**

**O Lord, with each returning morn  
Thine image to our hearts is born;  
O may we ever clearly see  
Our Savior and our God in Thee!**

**ANTHEM      "Caritas" from *Illuminare*      Elaine Hagenberg**

Love abounds in all,  
from the depths most excellent  
to beyond the stars,  
and loving toward all,  
she has given the highest king  
the kiss of peace.

#### 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 "Invocation" Alan Ridout

\*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 II Corinthians 3:17-4:1

\*PSALM HYMN 250 "When Morning Lights the Eastern Skies" (Psalm 145)

**When morning lights the eastern skies,  
O Lord, Thy mercy show;  
On Thee alone my hope relies,  
Let me Thy kindness know.**

**Teach me the way that I should go;  
I lift my soul to Thee;  
For refuge from my cruel foe  
To Thee, O Lord, I flee.**

**Thou art my God, to Thee I pray:  
Teach me Thy will to heed;**

**And in the right and perfect way  
May Thy good Spirit lead.**

**For Thy Name's sake, O gracious Lord,  
Revive my soul and bless,  
And in Thy faithfulness and love  
Redeem me from distress.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON      II Corinthians 4:6-7

SERMON      “Our Real Work”

\*HYMN (insert)      “God of Change and Glory”  
(You can view and download a copy of the words and music of this hymn [here](#).)  
**God of change and glory, God of time and space,  
When we fear the future, give to us your grace.  
In the midst of changing ways give us still the grace to praise.**

**Refrain:  
Many gifts, one Spirit, one love known in many ways.  
In our difference is blessing, from diversity we praise  
One Giver, one Lord, one Spirit, one Word  
Known in many ways, hallowing our days.  
For the Giver, for the gifts, praise, praise, praise!**

**God of many colors, God of many signs,  
You have made us different, blessing many kinds.  
As the old ways disappear, let your love cast out our fear.**

**Freshness of the morning, newness of each night,  
You are still creating endless love and light.  
This we see, as shadows part, many gifts from one great heart.**

\*BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE      “Laudate”      Colin Mawby

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#### TODAY

- ❖ No Church School Breakfast
- Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am
- Adult Education Only 9:15 am
- Worship Service 10:15 am
- Confirmation Class 4:00 pm

#### WEDNESDAY

- ❖ Pancake Supper 6-7 pm
- Ash Wednesday Worship Service 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
- Potluck Lunch After Worship
- “A Look at LGBTQ+ History in Iowa City”
- Choir Rehearsal 11:30 am

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

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

**ADULT EDUCATION CONNECTS WITH IOWA CITY ORGANIZATIONS** Join us each Sunday through February 18 around the fireplace in Rockwood Hall at 9:15 a.m. Our Mission Board is helping us develop closer relationships with some of the Iowa City area organizations that we support. Next Sunday, February 18— Talia Meidlinger, Executive Director, United Action for Youth and Hope Spragg, Mission Board.

**CONTRIBUTE TO THIS YEAR’S LENTEN DEVOTIONAL:** We're inviting members and friends to write a short, one paragraph reflection on a word or phrase from the Sermon on the Mount—we'll provide the words, you'll provide the reflection. If you are interested in being a part of this or have any questions, please contact Bill at [uccicrev@uccic.org](mailto:uccicrev@uccic.org) or call the church office at 337-4301 or call Patte Henderson at 594-7185 or Bryan Clemons at 330-7882. Lent begins on Wednesday, February 14. Easter is Sunday, March 31.

**SOUPER BOWL OF CARING**—This morning we are participating in the Souper Bowl of Caring, a grassroots hunger relief initiative. It is a time to lift up the reality that there is another contest going on today—the daily struggle against food insecurity and hunger here in Iowa City and across our nation. So, whether you’re watching the game and eating some of the 65 million avocados that Americans will eat or not, we encourage you to join in putting some money in the

soup kettles that the young people of our congregation will have both upstairs and downstairs after worship. The original request with this project was to give \$1.00 if you're watching the game. Now—whether you're watching or not, give whatever you'd like. All money will go to the CommUnity Crisis Center Food Pantry.

**ASH WEDNESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER AND WORSHIP SERVICE BEGIN THE SEASON OF LENT ON FEBRUARY 14:** On Wednesday, February 14, our Board of Christian Education will host their annual pancake supper in Rockwood Hall from 6-7 p.m. Sure, it's a day after Mardi Gras, but we Congregationalist have never been ruled by the church calendar. Bring your family and friends and join others for pancakes, eggs, sausage, good company, and good conversation. It will help with planning if you sign up on the sheet in Rockwood Hall or call the church office (337-4301) to let us know how many will attend. But please join us even if you haven't done this.

After eating, we will hold our Ash Wednesday worship service in the sanctuary at 7:00. This will be a time of music and song, scripture and prayer, and the distribution of ashes for those who want them. The worship service is designed for people of all ages.

Easter is Sunday, March 31, this year.

**WE'RE STILL LEARNING** is a series planned by the Mission Board LGBTQ subcommittee for the entire congregation. After considerable deliberation about relevant issues and educational opportunities, the committee came to the conclusion that as a group and as individuals *all are still learning* about relevant LGBTQ+ issues and ever changing challenges.

The Mission Board invites you to stay for a potluck lunch after church on Sunday, February 18, and experience an important presentation "A Look at LGBTQ+ History in Iowa City" presented by David McCartney, Congregational UCC member and retired University of Iowa archivist. David's information is designed to provide a foundation for future WE'RE STILL LEARNING sessions and to broaden understanding for longtime Iowa City residents and anyone new to the area.

David McCartney is university archivist emeritus at the University of Iowa, a position he held from 2001 until his retirement in 2022. He has master's degrees in history and in library science, both from the University of Maryland at College Park, and a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. David has served on the steering committee of the Society of American Archivists College and University Archives Section, is a past president of the Midwest Archives Conference, past chair of the Big Ten University Archivists Group, and past chair of the Consortium of Iowa Archivists. Before entering the archives field, David was a reporter for radio stations in the Midwest and in Alaska. David and his husband James live in Iowa City.

**PLEASE HELP WITH PARKING IN THE CHURCH LOT:** Several people currently have mobility issues and need to park in our small parking lot on 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.

**ANOTHER WAY TO HELP THE HOMELESS:** Trinity United Methodist Church of Riverside Iowa has purchased a loom and is using clean, plastic bags to construct Sleeping Mats for the homeless. These are lightweight, waterproof, and easy to pack and carry. By contributing our clean, plastic bags, we can help them help others. Bring your clean, unneeded, plastic grocery bags, or trash bags, any color, any size, here, to Rockwood Hall. We will see to it that they are delivered.

**SOUND OF FRIENDSHIP CONCERT AND DESSERT RECEPTION: SATURDAY, FEB 17.** Saint Andrews Presbyterian Church, 140 Gathering Place Ln, Iowa City. Doors open 6p / Concert 7p / Desserts After the Concert

**Performers:** Al Zimmerman, Kol Shira, Two-bit Maniac, Old Capital Chorus, Tanya English Band

Tickets available here: <https://compeer.yapsody.com/event/index/515571>

**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 (319-337-4301) know right away. 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.