



"Transfiguration" by Louis Bowman. Used by permission.

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

WORSHIP FOR FEBRUARY 19, 2023  
TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

"Just as the rays of the sun are not identical to the sun itself but participate in it, so the divine energies that permeate creation are not identical with the essence of divinity, yet they participate in it in a real way. Thus, uncreated light in the form of energy illuminates the soul from within. The task is to come to *see* the light, to see the transfiguration of the cosmos that has taken place. The Transfiguration celebrates *our* increasing capacity to behold the divine light irradiating all creation."

Wendy M. Wright

PRELUDE "From All That Dwell Below the Skies" Gerhard Krapf

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Kevin Richards, Liturgist

## CHORAL INTROIT

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

God said, "Let there be light;" and there was light.

**And God saw that the light was good.**

God who said, "Out of darkness the light shall shine!"

**is the same God who made light shine in our hearts  
to bring us the knowledge of God's glory  
shining in the face of Christ.**

\*HYMN 229 "From All That Dwell Below the Skies

**From all that dwell below the skies**

**Let the Creator's praise arise:**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Let the Redeemer's name be sung**

**Through every land, by every tongue.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**In every land begin the song,**

**To every land the strains belong:**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**In cheerful sounds all voices raise**

**And fill the world with joyful praise.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Eternal are Thy mercies, Lord;**

**Eternal truth attends Thy Word:**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore,**

**Till suns rise and set no more.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

### \*OPENING PRAYER

O God, distant yet near, we gather as witnesses to your promise that if we seek you with all our hearts, we will find you. Be among us this day. Hear the confessions and the yearnings of our hearts. Help us to change the narrowness of our vision and the pettiness of our living. Make us new again with your holy grace. Grant us the maturity to accept your many gifts in humility and to use them with faithfulness. Grant to us your Spirit that our worship may have integrity and energy, ever witnessing to your holy presence in our lives. We praise and give thanks to you, Eternal Presence; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

### \* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#229)

**Let all things their creator bless,  
and worship God in humbleness,**

**Alleluia, Alleluia!**  
**O praise the One who gives us birth,**  
**redeeming, giving life its worth,**  
**O sing praises, O sing praises,**  
**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

ANTHEM                    “Anthem for Transfiguration”                    Paul W. Hofreiter

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Questions for the parents and the congregation

Prayer

The baptisms of Madelon Mae Josten

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                    “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”                    David Cherwien

\*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

(The children are dismissed to Children’s Church)

SCRIPTURE LESSON                    Exodus 24:12-18

PSALM 99

God is sovereign;

let the people tremble;

**God is enthroned upon the cherubim;**  
**let the earth shake.**

The Sovereign God is great in Zion  
and is high above all peoples.

**Let them confess the name of God, which is great and awesome;**  
**the Sovereign God is the Holy One.**

“O mighty Sovereign, lover of justice, you have established equity;  
you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.”

**Proclaim the greatness of our Sovereign God  
and fall down before the footstool of the Holy One.**

Moses and Aaron among your priests,  
and Samuel among those who call upon your name,  
they called upon you, O God, and you answered them.

**You spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud;  
they kept your testimonies and the decree that you gave them.**

O God, you answered them indeed;  
you were a God who forgave them,  
yet punished them for their evil deeds.

**Proclaim the greatness of our Sovereign God  
and worship upon God's holy hill;  
for the Sovereign God is the Holy One.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON      Matthew 17:1-9

SERMON      “Death and Resurrection, Part 2”

\*HYMN 376      “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

**Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heaven to earth come down,  
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,  
All Thy faithful mercies crown!  
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,  
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;  
Visit us with Thy salvation,  
Enter every trembling heart.**

**Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit  
Into every troubled breast!  
Let us all in Thee inherit,  
Let us find that second rest;  
Take away the love of sinning;  
Alpha and Omega be;  
End of faith, as its beginning,  
Set our hearts at liberty.**

**Come, Almighty to deliver,  
Let us all Thy life receive;  
Suddenly return, and never,  
Nevermore Thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,**

**Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing,  
Glory in Thy perfect love.**

**Finish, then, Thy new creation;  
Pure and spotless let us be;  
Let us see Thy great salvation  
Perfectly restored in Thee;  
Changed from glory into glory,  
Till in heaven we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,  
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

\*BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE            “Agincourt Hymn”    John Dunstable

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

TODAY

- ❖ Transfiguration Sunday Worship            10:15 am
  - The sacrament of baptism
  - Choir Rehearsal                                9:00 am
  - Christian Education for All Ages        9:15 am
  - Children’s Church                              During Worship
  - Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall        After Worship
  - Choir Rehearsal                               11:30 am

THIS WEEK

- ❖ Tuesday            Membership Board            5:30 pm
  - Diaconate                                      6:00 pm
  - Trustees                                         7:00 pm
  - Stewardship (Zoom)                        7:00 pm
- ❖ Wednesday        Pancake Supper                6-7 pm
  - Ash Wednesday Worship                7:00 pm

NEXT SUNDAY

- ❖ First Sunday of Lent Worship            10:15 am
  - Choir Rehearsal                               9:00 am
  - Christian Education for All Ages        9:15 am
  - Children’s Church                              During Worship
  - Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall        After Worship

Choir Rehearsal

11:30 am

**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.

**JOIN US FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION EVENTS FOR ALL AGES** each Sunday morning at 9:15 a.m.

**THIS MORNING WE BAPTIZE** Madelon Mae Josten, the daughter of Jody and Nick Josten.

**PLEASE VISIT THE BEATITUDES BANNER** on the Bulletin Board in Rockford Hall, it was created by our Sunday School. Jesus' Beatitudes are not prescriptive (telling us *how to be*)...but they are descriptive (telling us *who we already are*)! **We are all Blessed!**

**LOOK FOR THIS YEAR'S LENTEN DEVOTIONAL** arriving daily in your In Box beginning this Wednesday, February 22. The Season of Lent is a time for reflecting as we seek to grow in knowledge of ourselves and in the knowledge of God (what John Calvin called "true and sound wisdom"). Each day there will be a new reflection from a member on the texts primarily from the "Wisdom Literature" of the Old Testament (Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes) and the Gospels and Epistles of the New Testament. Thanks to Patte Henderson and Bryan Clemons for coordinating this project of the Diaconate.

**ASH WEDNESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER AND WORSHIP SERVICE BEGIN THE SEASON OF LENT ON FEBRUARY 22:** On Wednesday, February 22, 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 Congregationalists 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, April 9, this year.

**OUR NEW BIBLE STUDY HAS BEGUN:** During the season of Lent, Bill Lovin is leading a Bible study looking at the book of Ecclesiastes. As with our other studies in recent years, this is held on Zoom (to allow for interstate and international participation) and meets on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:30. We will explore two chapters of Ecclesiastes each week. We started on February 15, and will take this Wednesday off for the Ash Wednesday worship service on February 22, and then continue through the five Wednesdays of March.

Please talk with Bill, call him at church (319-337-4301) or email him at [uccicrev@uccic.org](mailto:uccicrev@uccic.org) for more information or to let him know you are interested and he will send you the Zoom invitation.

**SACRED CONVERSIONS TO END RACISM:** 1.5 day Intensive Workshop on Zoom, March 24-25. The Congregational UCC Mission Board is sponsoring a 2-day workshop on Zoom for members of the congregation. Our instructor will be Rev. Dr. Velda Love, national UCC Lead for Join the Movement Toward Racial Justice and Minister for Racial Justice. Details can be found in the Newsletter and periodic Bulletins. If you are interested in registering send an email to: [donna-hirst@uiowa.edu](mailto:donna-hirst@uiowa.edu).

**THE CHURCH COUNCIL IS SEEKING A VOLUNTEER TO SCAN AND ORGANIZE THE HISTORICAL ANNUAL REPORTS.** For more information, please contact the Church office.

**JOIN THE JOHNSON COUNTY UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION FOR "NIGHT OF 1000 DINNERS,"** an international buffet on International Women's Day to honor local organizations advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, at 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 8, 2023, at Mercer Park Aquatic Center & Scanlon Gym, 2701 Bradford Drive, Iowa City.

This year's theme is Sustainable Development Goal #15: Life on Land. The event will honor Grow: Johnson County, Field to Family, and Great Plains Action Society. The program will feature international music, dance, spoken-word performances, and some surprises. The event will have in-person and virtual options. Tickets are \$25 for community members or \$10 for students. Donate or purchase tickets [here](#). You will have an option to purchase an in-person or virtual ticket. Ticket purchasers and donors will receive a Zoom link for the event.

**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](mailto: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 during January and February. Don't miss your chance. 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.