

Finding the Good News in the Sermon on the Mount

Second Sunday in Lent



“Sermon on the Mount” by Laura James (Used with permission)

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

WORSHIP FOR FEBRUARY 25, 2024
SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

“The disciples, then, must not only think of heaven; they have an earthly task as well. Now that they are bound exclusively to Jesus, they are told to look at the earth whose salt they are. It is to be noted that Jesus calls not himself, but his disciples the salt of the earth, for he entrusts his work on earth to them.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

PRELUDE “Prelude on the Hymn Tune ‘Picardy’” Stephen Weber

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Ginny Clemons, Liturgist

CHORAL INTROIT

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Jesus says:

“You are the salt of the earth.

You are the light of the world.”

We come to maintain that savor.

We come to rekindle that light.

[Unison]

We come to worship God.

***HYMN 454 “Blessed Jesus, at Your Word”**

**Blessed Jesus, at Your word
We are gathered all to hear You;
Let our hearts and souls be stirred
Now to seek and love and fear You;
By Your teachings true and holy,
Drawn from earth to love You solely.**

**All our knowledge, sense, and sight
Lie in deepest darkness shrouded,
Till Your Spirit breaks our night
With the beams of truth unclouded;
You alone to God can win us,
You must work all good within us.**

**Glorious Lord, Yourself impart!
Light of light, from God proceeding,
Open now our ears and heart,
Help us by Your Spirit’s pleading;
Hear the cry that we are raising;
Hear, and bless our prayers and praising.**

***OPENING PRAYER**

**As this day and week begin, O God, help us to see the new things you are doing in our lives
and in the world.**

**When we are worn out by what is immediately in front of us, lift our eyes toward the
horizon, that we might see the possibility of your realm before us.**

**When we are held back by what we have done or failed to do, remind us of your forgiveness
and put a new spirit within us.**

When we are unsure of where we are going, give us strength to follow in the ways of Jesus Christ.

Accept our prayers and our worship as you have accepted us. Amen.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#223, vs. 1)

**O my soul, bless your Redeemer;
All within me, bless God's Name;
Bless the Savior, and forget not
All God's mercies to proclaim.**

ANTHEM “Christus Paradox” Arr. by Alfred V. Fedak

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 “Interlude on the Hymn Tune ‘Picardy’” Richard Warner

*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—Children’s Choir with Majesty Constable
(At this time, children are dismissed to attend Children's Church.)

SCRIPTURE LESSON Amos 5:18-24

PSALM HYMN 251 “Your Faithfulness, O Lord, Is Sure” (Psalm 145)

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 5:13-20

SERMON “Compassion Made Visible”

*HYMN (insert) “You Are Salt for the Earth, O People” (vs. 1-3)

**You are salt for the earth, O people:
salt for the reign of God!**

**Share the flavor of life, O people:
life in the City of God!**

**Bring forth the reign of mercy,
bring forth the reign of peace;
Bring forth the reign of justice,
bring forth the City of God!**

**You are a light on the hill, O people:
light for the City of God!
Shine so holy and bright, O people:
shine for the City of God!**

**Bring forth the reign of mercy,
bring forth the reign of peace;
Bring forth the reign of justice,
bring forth the City of God!**

**You are a seed of the Word, O people:
bring forth the reign of God!
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice,
grow in the City of God!**

**Bring forth the reign of mercy,
bring forth the reign of peace;
Bring forth the reign of justice,
bring forth the City of God!**

***BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE “Fugue in E Minor” John Stanley

Cover Art: “Sermon on the Mount” by Laura James from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57891> [retrieved February 21, 2024]. Original source: Laura James, <https://www.laurajamesart.com/collections/religious/>. Used with permission of the artist. Laura James is a painter living and working in New York City. She explores biblical subjects through her unique contemporary use of the traditional art of Ethiopian iconography. She attended Union Theological Seminary in NYC.

“You Are Salt for the Earth, O People” - Marty Haugen. Words and Music - ©1986 GIA Publications, Inc. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-715458. All rights reserved.

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

Organist:	Bill Crouch
Choir Director	Dr. Chris Nakielski
Children's Choir Director	Majesty Constable
Office Manager	Jenn Harden

TODAY

- ❖ Church School Breakfast
- Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am
- Christian Education 9:15 am
- Worship Service 10:15 am
- Choir Rehearsal 11:30 am
- Youth Group 4:00 pm

TUESDAY

- ❖ Church Council 6:00 pm

NEXT SUNDAY

- ❖ Church School Breakfast 9:00 am
- Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am
- Christian Education 9:15 am
- Worship Service--Communion 10:15 am
- 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.

IMPORTANT DATES IN LENT AND EASTER

March 3—Third Sunday in Lent; Communion Sunday

March 24—Palm Sunday

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

March 28—Maundy Thursday

Communion and Service of Tenebrae at 7:00 p.m.

March 29—Good Friday

Worship at Noon

March 31—Easter Sunday

Sunrise Service at 7:30 a.m.; Breakfast in Rockwood Hall; Festival Easter Service at 10:15 a.m.

ADULT EDUCATION FOR LENT LOOKS AT THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT: Join Bill Lovin in Rockwood Hall, Sunday mornings at 9:15 for *Sermon on the Mount: A Beginner's Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven*, using material by the New Testament scholar, Dr. Amy-Jill Levine.

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.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAM HOLDS SOUPER BOWL: DVIP's 27th Annual Souper Bowl is coming up on **February 29, 2024 from 5-7pm** at the Hyatt in Coralville, IA and tickets are now live!

The **Souper Bowl** was created by DVIP Executive Director, Kristie Fortmann-Doser, to challenge the myth that more violence occurs against women around the NFL Super Bowl. Violence against women, men, and children happens every day. **1 in 4 women, 1 in 7 men, and 1 in 15 children** will be affected by intimate partner abuse in their lifetime. This event is essential to our agency because it provides financial support to ensure our advocates are there when victim/survivors need them. It demonstrates that we, as a community, support and believe victim/survivors.

You can save the date, order in-person dining tickets, and order delivery & take-out tickets [here](#).

Volunteer shifts are open for this event. Get involved! Help the cause and make this event run smoothly, efficiently, and successfully!

You can sign up to volunteer [here](#).

As always, kids 12 and under eat for free.

In 2023, Congregational UCC committed \$25,000 over a five-year period to help DVIP build its new shelter. DVIP opened its first shelter for people threatened by domestic violence in 1980, and now DVIP covers eight counties in southeastern Iowa — Johnson, Iowa, Cedar, Des Moines, Henry, Lee, Van Buren and Washington. The nonprofit provides emergency shelter, pet shelter, peer-to-peer counseling, education and prevention at the state and federal level, youth advocacy, a 24-hour hotline and other services to victims and survivors.

HOPE LODGE: Our next Hope Lodge dinner will be Monday, March 11. If you would like to participate, see the sign-up sheet in Rockwood Hall for the March dinner. If you have questions, contact Sue Dayton, cdayton7@mchsi.com

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.

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.