

EAT, DRINK &
be joyful
ECC. 8:15

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

WORSHIP FOR MARCH 12, 2023
THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

“They tried to bury us. They didn’t know we were seeds.”
Dinos Christianopoulos

PRELUDE “Prelude in G Minor,” Op. 48 No. 22 Josef Renner

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Hope Spragg, Liturgist

CHORAL INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Here we let go
of that which we hold on to
that does not bring life
**Here we let go
of the vanities of the world
and find the vulnerability of the cross**
Here we let go
of the wealth of the world
and trust the way of love

**Here we let go
of that which we hold on to
that does not bring life and
let those things that bring life
take hold in us.**

Let us worship God.

*HYMN 218 “New Songs of Celebration Render”

**New songs of celebration render
To God who has great wonders done;
Love sits enthroned in ageless splendor;
Come and adore the Mighty One.
God has made known the great salvation
Which all his friends with joy confess.
God has revealed to every nation
Truth and unending righteousness.**

**Joyfully, heartily resounding,
Let every instrument and voice
Peal out the praise of grace abounding,
Calling the whole world to rejoice.
Trumpets and organs, set in motion
Such sounds as make the heavens ring;
All things that live in earth and ocean,
Sound forth the song, your praises bring.**

**Rivers and seas and torrents roaring,
Honor the Lord with wild acclaim;
Mountains and stones look up adoring,
And find a voice to praise God's name.
Righteous, commanding, ever glorious,
Praises be sung that never cease;
Just is our God, whose truth victorious
Establishes the world in peace.**

* OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, you breathed into dust the spirit of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Your love for all that you made is without end. Through these lengthening days, continue to call forth our prayers and acts of tenderness, and strengthen us to face our mortality, that we may reach with confidence for your mercy, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#218)

**Come, living God, when least expected,
when minds are dull and hearts are cold,**

through sharpening word and warm affection
revealing truths as yet untold.
Break from the tomb in which we hide you
to speak again in startling ways;
break through the words in which we bind you
to resurrect our lifeless praise.

So, let our minds be sharp to read you
in sight or sound or printed page,
and let us greet you in our neighbors,
in ardent youth or mellow age.
Then, through our gloom, your Son will meet us
as vivid truth and living Lord,
exploding doubt and disillusion
to scatter hope and joy abroad.

ANTHEM *“Sicut Cervus”* (“As the Deer Desires the Fountains) G.P. da Palestrina

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 *“Largo”* John Travers

*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

SCRIPTURE LESSON Ecclesiastes 5:18-20

PSALM 98

Sing to the Lord a new song,
for the Lord has done marvelous things.

The right hand and the holy arm of the Lord

have secured the victory.

The Lord has made known this victory
and has openly showed righteousness in the sight of the nations.

**The Lord remembers mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel,
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.**

Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

**Sing to the Lord with the harp,
with the harp and the voice of song.**

With trumpets and the sound of the horn
shout with joy before the Sovereign, the Lord.

**Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it,
the lands and those who dwell therein.**

Let the rivers clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord,
who is coming to judge the earth.

**In righteousness shall the Lord judge the world
and the peoples with equity.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Hebrews 12:1-2

SERMON “The Wisdom of Joy, the Joy of Wisdom”

*HYMN (insert) “Before the Cross of Jesus”

**Before the cross of Jesus
Our lives are judged today;
The meaning of our eager strife
Is tested by his way.
Across our restless living
The light streams from his cross,
And by its clear, revealing beams
We measure gain and loss.**

**The hopes that lead us onward,
The fears that hold us back,
Our will to dare great things for God,
The courage that we lack,
The faith we keep in goodness,
Our love, as low or pure -
On all, the judgment of the cross
Falls steady, clear, and sure.**

**Yet humbly, in our striving,
O God, we face its test.
We crave the power to do your will
With him who did it best.**

**On us let now the healing
Of his great Spirit fall,
And make us brave and full of joy
To answer to his call.**

***BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE “Toccatà in G Minor” Johann Pachelbel

Call to Worship—alt. from Church of Scotland, Weekly Worship, March 21, 2021. Used with permission.

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CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE “Come, Living God, When Least Expected,” Alan Gaunt, Words - ©1991 Stainer & Bell Ltd. 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	Chris Nakielski
Office Manager	Jenn Harden

TODAY

❖ Third Sunday in Lent Worship	10:15 am
Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am
Adult Education	9:15 am
Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall	After Worship
Choir Rehearsal	11:15 am

THIS WEEK

❖ Tuesday	Staff Meeting	Noon
❖ Thursday	Women’s Lunch @ Thai Spice on Gilbert St.	11:45 a.m.
❖ Saturday	Men’s Breakfast @ Waterfront Hy-Vee	8:00 a.m.

NEXT SUNDAY

❖ Fourth 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	11:15 am
Youth Group	3:00-4:30 p.m.

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

JOIN US FOR ADULT EDUCATION AT 9:15 in Rockwood Hall. This Sunday: "Finding Joy in Lent." There is no children's Sunday School on Sunday because of Spring Break.

PLEASE VISIT THE BEATITUDES BANNER on the Bulletin Board in Rockwood 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. The Season of Lent is a time for reflecting as we seek to grow in knowledge of ourselves and in the knowledge of God. 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. If you are not receiving these, please contact Bill Lovin or the church office to be put on the list.

OUR NEW BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES THIS MONTH: 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 through the five Wednesdays of March. Please talk with Bill, call him at church (319-337-4301) or email him at uccicrev@uccic.org for more information or to let him know you are interested and he will send you the Zoom invitation.

THE MARCH WOMEN'S LUNCH will meet at Thai Spice, on Gilbert, this Thursday March 16 at 11:45AM. Please call or Text Martha Ann Crawford at 319-855-8340 to reserve a seat at the table.

THE MARCH MEN'S BREAKFAST will be held at 8:00 a.m. this coming Saturday, March 18, at the Waterfront Hy-Vee. All Congregational UCC men who eat breakfast are invited. This is a great way to catch up with old friends and meet new friends. Join us!

HOPE LODGE: Our next two Hope Lodge dinners will be March 20 and May 22. 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

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.

SHELTER HOUSE BOOK SALE: Saturday, March 25 and Sunday, March 26 from 10:30am-4:00pm, both days, at 860 Quarry Road, Coralville.

If you have gently used books, CDs, and DVDs, vinyl records, and puzzles, they can be dropped off at 860 Quarry Rd, Coralville until March 20. Donation times will be Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays from 10:00am-2:00pm, and Sundays from 2:00pm-4:00pm. You can also drop off books at Rockwood Hall and John Fieselmann or Donna Hirst can take them for you. The book sale could not be done without the help of volunteers. Sign up today at: bit.ly/booksale2023 or just show up.

Community sponsors are one of the many reasons Shelter House's Book Sale is such a fun and engaging event. Become a sponsor and make your contribution at www.shelterhouseiowa.org/donate, or email T'Shailyn Harrington at tshailyn.harrington@shelterhouseiowa.org for more information.

Sponsorship Opportunities:

Library Giant \$500

Epic Poet \$250

Novelist \$100

Sonneteer \$35

A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF SANDY BOYD will be held on Friday, April 7 at 2:00 p.m. at Hancher Auditorium. ALL ARE WELCOME. A reception will follow and parking will be available.

CPR AND AED TRAINING: We will be offering free CPR and AED training to the congregation over the next few months. The training will consist of watching two 2-minute videos, watching demonstrations of CPR and AED use and getting the chance to practice. Trainings will be offered at various times. Sign up on the sheets in Rockwood Hall (Under the Upcoming Events Bulletin) and Dianne Atkins will set up the schedule to make sure everyone gets a chance. Weekday and evening sessions will be in March and April, Sundays after worship will start in May. You can learn to save a life in just a few minutes.

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

DO YOU HAVE A CHURCH KEY? (We know, it's an old joke, but it never gets tired, does it?) We have recently 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.