

True wisdom consists in  
two things: Knowledge of  
God and Knowledge of Self.

John Calvin

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

WORSHIP FOR MARCH 5, 2023  
SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

*Today is a communion Sunday. If you are joining us online, before the worship service, you are invited to assemble what you will eat and what you will drink. It can be bread and grape juice or wine or as simple as a cracker or rice cake and water for use in our worship.*

“I cannot imagine what it is like to read Ecclesiastes on a sunny day under a clear sky.”  
Daphne Merkin

PRELUDE                      “Communion,” Op. 15 No. 1                      Alexandre Guilmant

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS                      Marsha Lowe, Liturgist

CHORAL INTROIT

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

God hears our voices in the morning  
and hearkens to the sound of our cries.

**God knows the intention of our hearts  
and is not deceived by actions that seem noble.**

We are not here to boast, but to pray,

and to glory only in the love of God.

**God pours out steadfast love in abundance  
and leads us in the ways of righteousness.**

\*HYMN 263 “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.**

**Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;  
Thy justice, like mountains, high soaring above  
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small;  
In all life Thou livest, the true life of all;  
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,  
And wither and perish; but naught changeth Thee.**

**Thou reignest in glory, Thou rulest in light,  
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;  
All praise we would render; O help us to see  
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee!**

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God, whose care never ceases, we come to you as we are. We are tired from trying to do more than we can manage. We are anxious about problems which go unresolved. We are worried about events beyond our control. We do not easily let go.**

**For mistakes we cannot redeem, for tasks left undone, for uncertain goals, we need your forgiveness and ask for your understanding. For recovery of strength and enthusiasm, we pray for your Spirit. For fullness of life, generous hearts, and contented souls, we pray to be followers of Christ Jesus. In your mercy, restore us and lead us. Amen.**

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#602, vs. 1)

**Blest be the God of Israel, Who comes to set us free;  
Who visits and redeems us, Who grants us liberty.  
The prophets spoke of mercy, Of freedom and release;  
God shall fulfill that promise And bring the people peace.**

ANTHEM

“Draw Us in Thy Spirit’s Tether” Harold Friedell

SERVICE OF GIVING

Invitation

Offertory "Andante" Johannes Diebold

\*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 Ecclesiastes 5:1-7

PSALM 46

God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.

**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,  
and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea;**

though its waters rage and foam,  
and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.

**The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.

**God is in the midst of the city;  
It shall not be overthrown;  
God shall help it at the break of day.**

The nations make much ado, and the realms are shaken;  
God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.

**The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**

Come now and look upon the works of the Lord,  
what awesome things God has done on earth.

**It is the Lord who makes war to cease in all the world,  
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear,  
and burns the shields with fire.**

"Be still, then, and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations;  
I will be exalted in the earth."

**The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON I Corinthians 1:18-25

SERMON

“True Wisdom, Part 2—The Knowledge of God”

THE LORD’S SUPPER

INVITATION

HYMN 85 “What Wondrous Love Is This”

**What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this, That caused the Lord of bliss,  
To bear the heavy cross,  
For my soul, for my soul,  
To bear the heavy cross for my soul.**

**To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing!  
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing!  
To God and to the Lamb, Who is the great "I AM, "  
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing!  
While millions join the theme, I will sing.**

**And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on!  
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on,  
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,  
And through eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,  
And through eternity, I'll sing on.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

THANKSGIVING FOR BREAD AND CUP

**We thank you, O Christ,  
that scattered though we are, with different needs and hopes  
you call us together at this meal and unite us as one body.**

**We thank you for this bread and cup set before us,  
food and drink to nourish us in body and in spirit, signs of your life-giving love.  
May they speak to us  
of the everyday made holy,  
of life made new,  
of hope for your realm among us.**

We remember that on the night of his arrest...

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF BREAD AND CUP

(Communion will be served in the pews today. Please receive the bread or cup as they are offered to you by a deacon. Hold it until all have been served, and we will eat and drink together at the pastor's guidance. We serve grape juice, not wine. Gluten-free wafers are on the trays with the bread. In the Congregational United Church of Christ, we celebrate the Lord's Supper with openness and welcome. Everyone is invited to the table, regardless of church membership or denominational affiliation.)

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**Gracious God,  
as we have come to this table for strength,  
send us out filled with your love.  
that we may meet the needs of the world that awaits us. Amen.**

\*HYMN 278                    "Our God, to Whom We Turn"

**Our God, to whom we turn  
When weary with illusion,  
Whose stars serenely burn  
Above this earth's confusion,  
Thine is the mighty plan,  
The steadfast order sure  
In which the world began,  
Endures, and will endure.**

**Thou art Thyself the truth;  
Though we who fain would find Thee,  
Have tried, with thoughts uncouth,  
In feeble words to bind Thee,  
It is because Thou art  
We're driven to the quest;  
Till truth from falsehood part,  
Our souls can find no rest.**

**All beauty speaks of Thee:  
The mountains and the rivers,  
The line of lifted sea,  
Where spreading moonlight quivers,  
The deep-toned organ blast  
That rolls through arches dim,  
Hints of the music vast  
Of Thine eternal hymn.**

**Thou hidden fount of love,  
Of peace, and truth, and beauty,  
Inspire us from above  
With joy and strength for duty.**

**May Thy fresh light arise  
Within each clouded heart,  
And give us open eyes  
To see Thou as Thou art.**

\*BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE            “Fughetta”            Johannes Diebold

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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

- ❖ Second Sunday in Lent Worship            10:15 am
  - The Sacrament of Communion
  - 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

THIS WEEK

- ❖ Tuesday            Board of Christian Education 6:30 p.m.
  - Mission Board            7:00 pm
- ❖ Wednesday            Bible Study            7:00 pm

NEXT SUNDAY

- ❖ Third 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

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

**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 12.** Please remember to set your clock ahead one hour on Saturday evening, March 11, so that you get to church on time.

**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. 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. If you are not receiving these, please contact Bill Lovin or the church office to be put on the list.

**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 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.

**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](mailto: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](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.