



# LENT

WORSHIP FOR 3-6  
FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

“The struggle with evil in the world begins with the struggle with evil within ourselves, and that struggle depends upon self-knowledge: knowing and acknowledging our limitations and our capacities. Such introspection should take place at all times with us, but Lent is that particular time in the church year when we pay attention to that.”

Peter Gomes

PRELUDE “Andante espressivo” Johann Krieger

CALL TO WORSHIP

We have gathered in the presence of God our creator,  
Who sets before us the ways of life and death.

**We have gathered in the presence of Jesus the Christ,  
Who calls us to accept the cost of discipleship  
That we may know its joy.**

We have gathered in the presence of the Spirit,  
Who sustains us in trial and rejoicing.

**In our living and in our dying,  
We belong to God.**

**In the shadow of God’s wings,  
We sing for joy.**

Let us worship God.

\* 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.**

#### 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.**

**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 (#83, vs. 5)

**All glory to our Lord and God  
For love so deep, so high, so broad:  
The Trinity whom we adore  
Forever and forevermore.**

ANTHEM    Thee, Lord, Would I Serve"    Mark Bender

#### SERVICE OF GIVING

Invitation

Offertory            "Largo"            John Travers

\*Response

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God, all creatures here below,  
Praise God above, you heavenly hosts  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\*Prayer of Dedication

(At this time, children are dismissed to attend Children's Church.)

SCRIPTURE LESSON      Deuteronomy 26:1-11

PSALM 91

You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High,  
abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

**You shall say to the Lord,  
"You are my refuge and my stronghold,  
my God in whom I put my trust."**

God shall deliver you from the snare of the hunter  
and from the deadly pestilence.

**God's pinions will cover you,  
and you shall find refuge under the wings of the Lord,  
whose faithfulness shall be a shield and buckler.**

You shall not be afraid of any terror by night,  
nor of the arrow that flies by day;

**Of the plague that stalks in the darkness,  
nor of the sickness that lays waste at mid-day.**

A thousand shall fall at your side  
and ten thousand at your right hand,  
but it shall not come near you.

**Your eyes have only to behold  
to see the reward of the wicked.**

Because you have made the Lord your refuge,  
and the Most High your habitation,

**there shall no evil happen to you,  
neither shall any plague come near your dwelling.**

For God shall give the holy angels charge over you,  
to keep you in all your ways.

**They shall bear you in their hands,  
lest you dash your foot against a stone.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON      Luke 4:1-13

SERMON      "Getting Through the Wilderness"

THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND SHARING OF ELEMENTS

(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

\*HYMN (insert) "Now Quit Your Care"

**Now quit your care  
and anxious fear and worry;  
For schemes are vain  
and fretting brings no gain;  
Lent calls to prayer,  
to trust and dedication;  
God brings new beauty nigh.  
Reply, reply, reply with love to Love most high.**

**To bow the head  
in sackcloth and in ashes,  
Or rend the soul---  
such grief is not Lent's goal;  
But to be led  
to where God's glory flashes,  
His beauty to come near.  
Make clear, make clear,  
make clear where truth and light appear.**

**For is not this  
The fast that I have chosen? —  
The prophet spoke —  
To shatter every yoke  
Of wickedness  
The grievous bands to loosen  
Oppression put to flight,  
To fight, to fight,  
To fight 'til every wrong's set right.**

**For righteousness  
And peace will show their faces  
To those who feed  
The hungry in their need,  
And wrongs redress,  
Who build the old waste places,  
And in the darkness shine.  
Divine, divine,  
Divine it is when all combine!**

**Then shall your light  
Break forth as doth the morning;  
Your health shall spring,  
The friends you make shall bring  
God's glory bright,  
Your way through life adorning;  
And love shall be the prize.  
Arise, arise,  
Arise! and make a paradise!**

\*BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE "Toccatà in C Minor" Johann Gottfried Walther

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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

**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 required for all people in all parts of the building. We will keep social distance in the pews. While there is no coffee hour, worshippers may talk with each other in Rockwood Hall as they leave.

**WE ARE NOW LIVE STREAMING 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/1547852>. The recordings remain up permanently, so you can watch past worship services at your convenience or recommend them to a friend.

**FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP SERVICES**—If you would like to contribute flowers for the worship services on upcoming Sundays please call the office to let Jenn know or sign up on the sheet in Rockwood Hall.

**A SPECIAL OFFERING TO SUPPORT THE UKRAINIAN CRISIS RESPONSE FUND OF CHURCH WORLD SERVICE** will be received during worship next Sunday, March 13.

Our Mission Board is calling for this offering to help provide humanitarian assistance to people displaced as a result of the violence and bolster partners in Europe to serve the most vulnerable. More information can be found at [www.cwsglobal.org/appeals/ukraine-crisis-response-fund/](http://www.cwsglobal.org/appeals/ukraine-crisis-response-fund/)

**THE CHURCH COUNCIL IS FORMING A SAFETY COMMITTEE** to review building security and related issues. If you would like to be a part of this important work, please talk with Tom Mittman or call the church office at 319-337-4301.

**LENT BIBLE STUDY LOOKS AT LUKE:** A new Bible study will look at the ministry of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke. Together we will watch what Jesus does, listen to what he says, and go where he goes. All of this will lead to an exploration of the last week of his life near the end of the Gospel. We will meet together by Zoom at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday evenings from March 9 through April 6. If there is interest, a daytime group could also be formed.

Since the summer of 2020 we have studied several books of the Bible through free-flowing and honest discussions. Please consider being a part of this study as we move together through Lent. If you are interested or have questions, please call Bill Lovin at the church (319-337-4301) or email him at [uccicrev@uccic.org](mailto:uccicrev@uccic.org).

**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING:** On Palm Sunday, April 10, we will dedicate our One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering. This offering has long been an important part of the life of our congregation. For many years now, we have been on the list of Top 100 giving churches.

This year's theme, "Love Remains," comes from Paul's well-known words: "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." (1 Cor. 13:13) In a world where communities are being displaced by the catastrophes of war, famine, and natural disaster, our congregation joins with many others in standing in faith, hope, and love with those who seek to move beyond the trauma of displacement toward the promise of healing and peace. Your generous gift will support the relief work of not only the UCC but also many other denominations united in caring for refugees, in providing medical care, and in disaster recovery efforts. You can watch videos about the work that OGHS makes possible [by clicking here:](#)

Let us join in this great tradition and give generously, not because we have to, but because we can.

**THE SHELTER HOUSE BOOK SALE** will be held March 26-27. Book donations and volunteer sorting have begun at the Old Antique Car Museum – 860 Quarry Road, Coralville. Our church has historically been a strong supporter of this sale. At the last sale we earned \$21,000 for Shelter House, working side by side with many other community volunteers. Please begin to get your book donations ready! If you need someone to pick up your donations, someone from the volunteer team can come to your home. Donations can be dropped off at Rockwood Hall and a volunteer can take them to the sale site. John Fieselmann and Donna Hirst are members of the Planning Committee and can answer any questions you have.

**THE ANNUAL NIGHT OF 1000 DINNERS**, organized by the Johnson County Chapter of the United Nations Association celebrates International Women’s Day, March 8, 6:00 on zoom. This virtual event will feature multicultural music, dance, art, and spoken-word presentations and will honor three local women-led organizations advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

They are Inside Out Reentry Community, Iowa City Compassion, and Open Heartland. All proceeds will benefit these groups plus the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

Tickets are \$25 and may be purchased only at [johnsoncountuna.org](http://johnsoncountuna.org) or by sending a check payable to JCUNA plus email address to JCUNA, 308 E. Burlington Street, #245, Iowa City, IA 52240.



Want to give online? Scan the QR code for our giving app.  
Your giving makes a world of difference.

**CONSULTATION OF RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES: SPOTLIGHT ON ANTISEMITISM**—Wednesday, March 16, 10-10:30 AM on Zoom

In January, the hostage crisis at the synagogue in Colleyville, Texas brought to light the rising antisemitism in the U.S. and around the world. What role and responsibility do all faith communities share in addressing antisemitism in its many forms today? Join us for this important topic, featuring Rabbi Esther Hugenholtz from Agudas Achim Congregation

The program will include:

- Personal reflections from Rabbi Esther Hugenholtz
- Definitions and brief history of antisemitism
- Overview of the ongoing security and safety concerns for Jewish people and synagogues
- Ideas for advocacy and action

If you are not already on CRC’s email list, you may email [barrjohnno@sau.edu](mailto:barrjohnno@sau.edu) for the Zoom link.