



John August Swanson, *The Great Catch*, reprinted with permission

CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
30 N. CLINTON ST.
IOWA CITY, IA 52245
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WORSHIP FOR APRIL 11, 2021
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

“Life on the other side of Easter is not easy and we are tempted, and in fact we succumb to our temptation, to go back to where we were, and to what we were, and to what we were doing before Easter came along and interrupted us with its power, its glory, and its transformation.”

Peter Gomes

PRELUDE “Pastorale” Philip Hayes

EASTER GREETING AND WELCOME

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

CALL TO WORSHIP

“Jesus showed himself to his disciples...” (Acts 1:3)

In the first light of morning

Christ invites us to follow on his way.

In the last light of evening

Christ comes among us to stay.

Christ comes to accompany us

In the middle of the day.

Come, welcome the light

And share in the risen life of Christ.

HYMN “That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright” (vs. 1 & 2)
(Words and music can be found [here.](#))

**That Easter day with joy was bright,
The sun shone out with fairer light,
When, to their longing eyes restored,
The apostles saw their risen Lord.**

**O Jesus, King of gentleness,
Do all our inmost hearts possess
And we to You will ever raise
The tribute of our grateful praise.**

OPENING PRAYER

We are going back to what we know, O God. At least that is what we are trying to do. We cannot evade the uneasy sense that the future is still unknown even though we are filled with a tentative joy and an expectant excitement. We ask you to walk with us through these times and be with us each new day.

We remember your promise of resurrection but daily we struggle to meet the tasks before us and to catch up with the life we have missed. We still get sick, we still disappoint one another, we still mourn for those who have died. Speak to our innermost being of the new life that hums within us and hold up before our outermost sight the vision of life you offer as possibility. Help us care for one another, forgive one another and comfort one another. Let us say "Yes" to this way of living as we go on. Amen.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE LESSON I Peter 1:13-16

PSALM 30

I will exalt you, O Lord,
because you have lifted me up
and have not let my enemies triumph over me.

**O Lord my God, I cried out to you,
and you restored me to health.**

You brought me up, O Lord, from the dead;
you restored my life as I was going down to the grave.

**Sing to the Lord, you faithful servants;
give thanks for the remembrance of God's holiness.**

For God's wrath lasts but the twinkling of an eye,
God's favor endures for a lifetime.

**Weeping may spend the night,
but joy comes in the morning.**

While I felt secure, I said,

"I shall never be disturbed.

You, Lord, with your favor, made me as strong as the mountains."

**Then you hid your face,
and I was filled with fear.**

I cried to you, O Lord;

I pleaded with the Lord, saying,

**"What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the pit?
will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?"**

Hear, O Lord, and have mercy upon me;

O Lord, be my helper."

**You have turned my wailing into dancing;
you have put off my sack-cloth and clothed me with joy.**

[Unison]

**Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing;
O Lord my God, I will give you thanks forever.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON John 21:1-14

SERMON "Beginning—Again"

TIME OF GRATITUDE

ANTHEM "O Lord, Give Thy Holy Spirit" Thomas Tallis

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN "Yours Is the Glory"

**Yours is the glory, resurrected One!
Endless is the victory your o'er death have won.
Angels clothed in radiance rolled the stone away;
conquered is the grave in which your body lay.**

**Refrain: Yours is the glory, risen, Resurrected One!
Endless is the victory you o'er death have won.**

**See, it is Jesus, Jesus has appeared;
do not doubt at all for nothing you will fear.
Let the church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing;
tell it without ceasing; Death hath lost its sting. [Refrain]**

**Am I still frightened? One whom I adore,
Jesus, lives again, gives peace forever more.
Jesus is my victory, lie and strength and Head;
Jesus is my glory, nothing shall I dread. [Refrain]**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Voluntary in D” John Worgan

Minister:	The Rev. Bill Lovin
Director of Children’s Programs:	The Rev. Ann Molsberry
Organist:	Bill Crouch
Choir Director	Kristin Ramseyer

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RECORDINGS OF THE WORSHIP SERVICES are posted by early Sunday morning each week 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.

With the Easter season here, Bill is leading a two week series looking at the resurrection stories in chapters 20 & 21 of the Gospel of John. We’ll meet by Zoom on Wednesday evenings, April 14 and 21. If you would like to join these sessions, email Bill at uccicre@uccic.org and he’ll send you the Zoom invitation.

As we did a year ago, the **Mission Board is inviting church members to donate some or all of their COVID-19 Relief Checks** (stimulus checks) to local agencies which can get this money to individuals with immediate needs, some of whom don’t qualify for relief checks. Many in our congregation will need to keep their relief checks just to make ends meet through the continuing crisis, but many in our congregation are still receiving their regular income and actually may have fewer expenses than usual. You can read the Mission Board’s letter that includes an annotated list of agencies [here](#).

FREE LUNCH PROGRAM NEWS
Providing Good Food and Hospitality since 1983

Our church prepared **85** lunches to go at the Free Lunch Program on March 29, 2021. Since the dining room continues to be closed due to COVID-19, new procedures have been established that are working very well. So many generous members of our church volunteered by donating food for take-home lunches. Heartfelt thanks to: **Dianne Atkins, Ginny & Bryan Clemons, Sue Dayton, Bill Dickinson, Diane Duncan-Goldsmith, Betsy Henson, Linda Muston, Connie Parsons, Edie Roberts and Rebecca Weatherford**

Special appreciation to **Kyle Flippo, Betsy Henson, and Edie Roberts** for their cheerful onsite support. Our next scheduled serving date is **Memorial Day, Monday, May 31, 2021.**

Vicki Thomae

RACIAL JUSTICE–SOCIAL ACTION DISCUSSIONS: AN INVITATION

The Mission Board invites you to participate in the final discussion group to be held via Zoom in April.

We will come together with the hope of understanding and combating racism—within ourselves and in the world around us. Through the questions we ask and the answers we propose, we will seek specific projects and goals that can lift the burden of racism that our sisters and brothers of color—indeed, all of us—carry in our daily life.

The session will open with brief introductory remarks, and guided discussion will follow; we encourage *all* participants to voice their own thoughts! (If attendance warrants, Zoom will help us arrange smaller discussion groups.) The final session is: **Environmental Justice, Apr. 27, Tuesday, 7:00–8:30**

Registration instructions: please read carefully!

Registration will be handled through **Kyle Flippo, kyle-flippo@uiowa.edu**. Please email Kyle indicating that you'd like to join the session. Approximately a week before the session, registrants will receive a welcome letter with a Zoom link. After you register, you'll also be offered a *few* pages of suggested reading for each session. After each discussion, you'll receive a list of proposed actions and activities.

We welcome you, and encourage you to pass our invitation on to others who may wish to join us. **If you have questions, please email Kyle Flippo, kyle-flippo@uiowa.edu.**

We need *you* for this project; please join us if you can. Few of us live without the benefits or harms of racial injustice. This is a chance for you to connect to the community and learn how you might help “to form a more perfect Union.”

SUPPLY NEEDS AT COMMUNITY: Currently in need of **baby items** (diapers & wipes). Larger sizes of diapers tend to be more popular among our clients. Please feel free to drop off any donations of these items to the Pepperwood food bank location. CommUnity is also in need of containers to be used for repackaging dog food. A good example of containers that work well are empty Folger's coffee containers.

Lastly, CommUnity is in need of nonperishable, easy to open, microwavable food items. Some good examples may include:

- pop top canned goods
- microwavable pasta cups
- microwavable soups
- microwavable rice
- etc.

INSIDE OUT REENTRY COMMUNITY PRESENTS UNHEARD VOICES, a forum to discuss the hidden impacts of incarceration and reentry on children, partners, and family members. These groups often face challenges finding support for their situation, as well as the effects of the societal stigma surrounding incarceration. The event includes a panel of service providers who will discuss programming and support groups for these families and children, as well as a panel of individuals who have been impacted by the incarceration of a loved one. This event discusses available opportunities and identifies gaps in support for these unheard voices. April 22, 2021 12:00 PM Register [here](#).

THE TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES IOWA CITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS. The board comprises leaders from the nonprofit and for-profit sector who are dedicated to creating opportunities for artisans in developing countries to earn income by bringing their stories and products to our marketplace through fair-trading, ethically sourced, long-term relationships. Serving on the Board of Directors is an extraordinary opportunity for persons passionate about strengthening leadership and governance in the nonprofit sector. Email iowacity@tenthousandvillages.com to see what board involvement entails and how to apply.

THE CONSULTATION OF RELIGIOUS CONGREGATIONS CONTINUES TO LOOK FOR A NEW COORDINATOR FOR THE JOHNSON COUNTY CROP HUNGER WALK. Without a coordinator in place in a timely manner, this event will not be happening again in 2021.

Below is a concise overview of our community's CROP Walk, including information about the coordinator and team responsibilities. Please review this as you prayerfully consider stepping forward to fill these key roles.

CROP Walk Coordinator and Team Responsibilities

The coordinator and team are responsible for:

1. Setting the date.
2. Setting a date and location for the rally. This is usually about 6 weeks prior to the walk. reps from the various churches can pick up their collection envelopes (tho CWS would now prefer that donations be made online) There are also brochures, posters etc to help advertise the CROP Walk. Sunday School materials can also be ordered. I did a project with our SS kids each year to

get them excited about CROP We have had the rally at two locations to make it easier for team leaders. The supplies are all available online and are no cost. I have lots left form this year.

3. Apply for a walk permit from the city. This too can be done online. They require a map of the walk route. I have a copy. The walk has begun at the building where Free Lunch is served and ends up there as well 911 Gilbert Court. They have been very generous in allowing us to be inside before and after the walk if the weather is not good.

4. Apply for insurance. This also is done online and is provided by CWS.

CROP has a new theme every 1-2 years, but basically, we are walking to help stop hunger. 25% of money raised goes directly to the Comm Unity Food Bank in Iowa City.

For further information and to volunteer please contact Barb Lang at: bj60lange@q.com or 319-351-3762.