



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

WORSHIP FOR APRIL 2, 2023
PALM SUNDAY

“During these turbulent times, we must remind ourselves repeatedly that life goes on. This we are apt to forget. The wisdom of life transcends our wisdoms; the purpose of life outlasts our purposes; the process of life cushions our processes.”

Howard Thurman

PRELUDE “All Glory, Laud and Honor” Gerhard Krapf

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS John Fieselmann, Liturgist

CHORAL INTROIT

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

People of God, wherever you are,
sing Hosanna and lift high your palms!

Hosanna! A time to turn and return to God.

Hosanna! A time to mourn and a time to dance.

Hosanna! God’s presence meets us everywhere, in every time and in every season.

It is time to give God thanks and praise.

***HYMN 177 “Psalm 24” (Lift Up the Gates Eternal)**

Refrain:

**Lift up the gates eternal; lift up your voices:
The King of glory comes; the nation rejoices.**

**1. See, all the earth is God's, its people and nations;
God built it on the deeps and laid its foundations.**

**2. Who can go up this mountain, who stand in praising?
Those who are pure, who come with clean hands upraising.**

**3. They shall receive forgiveness and have God's blessing
if they will search for God, their Savior confessing.**

(Refrain)

**4. Come, lift your voices high: be lifted to glory;
the Lord our God approaches; come, shout the story.**

**5. Who is this glorious one, for whom we are waiting?
We wait the mighty Lord, our God celebrating.**

(Refrain)

**6. Come, lift your heads with joy; come, lift up your tower;
the King of glory comes in full might and power.**

**7. Who is this King of glory of whom we're singing?
Our God, the Lord of Hosts, the victory is bringing.**

(Refrain)

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Holy God, you have been our rock and our salvation.

Although we have felt lost and afraid, you have been with us.

**Although we have given up our voices when we should have spoken, you invite us to
change. You call us to find the truth about ourselves and our world and to speak it.**

**Strengthen our hearts. Forgive us for all the ways we have failed, and help us to forgive
ourselves. Amen.**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

God's love remains even when we turn away or fall away or run away.

God forgives and calls us back to the Way that leads to life and peace.

Be encouraged by God's grace and empowered by God's spirit.

**Let us receive God's grace. We are blessed, forgiven, loved, and sent into the world
Thanks be to God! Amen.**

ANTHEM "Wondrous Love" Robert Shaw

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.

SERVICE OF GIVING

Invitation

Offertory "All Glory, Laud and Honor" Paul Manz

*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

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

SCRIPTURE LESSON Zechariah 9:9-12

PSALM 118:1-2, 19-29

Give thanks to the Lord, who is good,
whose mercy endures forever.

**Let Israel now proclaim,
"The mercy of the Lord endures forever."**

Open for me the gates of righteousness;

I will enter them;

I will offer thanks to the Lord.

**"This is the gate of the Lord;
those who are righteous may enter."**

I will give thanks to you, for you answered me
and have become my salvation.

**The same stone which the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

This is the Lord's doing,
and it is marvelous in our eyes.

**This is the day God has made;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.**

Hosanna, Lord, hosanna!

Lord, send us now success.

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord;
we bless you from the house of the Lord.**

God is the Lord, who has shined upon us;

form a procession with branches up to the horns of the altar.

**"You are my God, and I will thank you;
you are my God, and I will exalt you."**

[Unison]

**Give thanks to the Lord, who is good;
whose mercy endures forever.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON John 12:12-18

SERMON "Six Ways to Look at a Parade" or "The Wisdom of Palm Sunday"

*HYMN "Ride on, King Jesus"

RIDE ON, KING JESUS

Spiritual

Refrain



Ride on, King Je - sus, No man can a - hin - der me,



Ride on, King Je - sus, ride on, No man can a - hin - der me.

Verses



1. King Je - sus ___ rides on a milk - white horse,
2. I know that ___ my re - deem - er lives,
3. If you want to find your ___ way to God,



1-3. No man can a - hin - der me; { The riv - er of Jor - dan
And of ___ his bless - ing
The gos - pel high - way



1. he did cross,
 2. free - ly gives,
 3. must be trod,
- } No man can a - hin - der me.

to Refrain

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE "Prelude & Fugue in A Minor," BWV 559

J.S. Bach

Opening Prayer and Assurance of Pardon, Fourth Presbyterian Church, Chicago, IL, 3/20/16.

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

- ❖ Palm Sunday Worship 10:15 am
 - One Great Hour of Sharing Offering
 - 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 pm
 - Mission Board 7:00 pm
- ❖ Thursday Maundy Thursday Worship 7:00 pm
 - Communion and Tenbrae
- ❖ Friday Good Friday Worship Noon

NEXT SUNDAY

- ❖ Easter Sunday Worship 10:15 am
 - Breakfast 8:30
 - Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am
 - No Christian Education
 - Children's Church During Worship
 - Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall After Worship

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.

IMPORTANT DATES IN LENT AND EASTER

- April 2—Palm Sunday—Worship with Distribution of Palms; One Great Hour of Sharing Offering
- April 6 Maundy Thursday—Worship in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.; Communion and Service of Tenebrae
- April 7, Good Friday—Worship in the Sanctuary at Noon
- April 9, Easter Sunday—Easter Breakfast at 8:30 a.m. Festival Easter Service in the Sanctuary at 10:15 a.m.
- April 30—Spring Choir Music Sunday

FLOWERS FOR EASTER BRING COLOR TO THE SANCTUARY: Each year on Easter Sunday members and friends of Congregational UCC provide flowers for the sanctuary in

memory of loved ones or to honor someone. Because so many people enjoy the burst of color, our Diaconate invites you to bring any type of spring flower—lilies, yes, but also consider tulips, daffodils, crocuses, or any other spring flower. *If you would like to have the name(s) of those remembered in the Easter Sunday bulletin, please get that information to the church office (337-4301) by Tuesday, April 4.*

BRUNCH ON SUNDAY, APRIL 30, CELEBRATES FIFTEEN YEARS OF NEW UCCIC MEMBERS: The Membership Board invites you to Brunch on Sunday, April 30, following worship (in Rockwood Hall). Randee Fieselmann will give a talk: “Our Tiffany Window.” New members, prospective members, longtime members, and visitors are all welcome. Please sign up for attendance on the sheets provided in Rockwood Hall.

CPR AND AED TRAINING: Dianne Atkins will be offering free CPR and AED training to the congregation in April. 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). You can learn to save a life in just a few minutes.

AS ALLIES FOR LGBTQ INDIVIDUALS AND AN OPEN, WELCOMING AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION, the Mission Board has formed an LGBTQ+ Study Group. The group will look at ways to raise congregational awareness of Iowa's anti-LGBTQ legislation and the potential harm, intimidation and coercion of vulnerable individuals. We will present opportunities to support and act as allies in our community and state. For questions or more information, see the display in Rockwood Hall or speak with a Mission Board or LGBTQ Study Group member: Hope Spragg, Linda Muston, Paula Forrest, Martha Ann Crawford or Rebecca Weatherford.

DO YOU HAVE A CHURCH KEY? 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 kdrichards1958@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 kdrichards1958@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.