



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

WORSHIP FOR APRIL 23, 2023  
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chuck Connerly, Liturgist

Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed!**

CHORAL INTROIT

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Friends of God, we come into the presence of God to be stilled in heart.

**We come to be inspired through imagination**

We reach out to receive

**With eyes opened to new perspectives, we will learn how to live in the free and spirit-filled ways of Christ.**

\*HYMN (insert)      “As We Gather at Your Table”

**As we gather at your table,  
As we listen to your word,  
Help us know, O God, your presence;  
Let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
Nourish us with sacred story  
Till we claim it as our own;  
Teach us through this holy banquet  
How to make Love’s victory known.**

**Turn our worship into witness  
In the sacrament of life;  
Send us forth to love and serve you,  
Bringing peace where there is strife.  
Give us, Christ, your great compassion  
To forgive as you forgave;  
May we still behold your image  
In the world you died to save.**

**Gracious Spirit, help us summon  
Other guests to share that feast  
Where triumphant Love will welcome  
Those who had been last and least.  
There no more will envy blind us  
Nor will pride our peace destroy,  
As we join with saints and angels  
To repeat the sounding joy.**

\*OPENING PRAYER

God of broad earth and deep sky, of wholesome bread and delicious wine, you delight us by your nearness.

**You astonish us through the ordinary ways you make yourself known. May delight enrich our worship, so that gratitude carries us forward onto roads of grace, goodness, and compassion.**

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

When all seems lost and circumstances leave us feeling empty and afraid;  
God of unwavering hope,

**May your words of life burn within our hearts.**

When trust seems impossible and our eyes remain tightly closed to the constant breaking in of Spirit;  
God of unwavering faith,

**May your words of life burn within our hearts.**

When our spirits feel dry and listless and where hurt or resentment creates barriers to human care and friendship;

God of unwavering love,

**May your words of life burn within our hearts.**

\*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Fellow travelers, alive to God's constant word of faith, hope, and love, may we journey into life in new ways. May we take to heart God's gift of presence, Peace, and forgiveness. Receive it gladly. Live it with passion and boldness.

Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

ANTHEM "This Easter Morn" Clark Kimberling

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

\*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

**Giver of life, in the same way that bread is broken and shared for the benefit of all, so might our offerings of money, time, and giftedness be a breaking open of abundant love to the world. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Majesty Constable, Director

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

PSALM 116:1-4, 12-19

I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my supplications.

**Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.**

What shall I return to the Lord for all his bounty to me?

**I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord,**  
I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.

**I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the Lord.**  
I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people,  
in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem.

**Praise the Lord!**

SCRIPTURE LESSON DRAMA                      Luke 24:13-35

Tina Koepnick, *Narrator*; Fielding Woolums, *Jesus*; Finn Nakielski, *Disciple*; All the children

Disciples:                                      Christ has risen!

Congregational Response:    **Christ has risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Sung Response:                      Hymn (insert) "Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread"

**Be known to us in breaking bread,  
but do not then depart;  
Savior, abide with us, and spread  
your table in our heart.**

**Here share with us, in love divine,  
your body and your blood,  
that living bread, that heavenly wine  
be our immortal food.**

(Children may be dismissed for Children's Church)

SERMON                      Meals Matter

\*HYMN 324                      "Open My Eyes That I May See"

**Open my eyes, that I may see  
Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me;  
Place in my hands the wonderful key  
That shall unclasp and set me free.**

**Refrain:  
Silently now I wait for Thee,  
Ready, my God, Thy will to see;  
Open my eyes (ears, heart), illumine me,  
Spirit divine!**

**Open my ears, that I may hear  
Voices of truth Thou sendest clear;  
And while the wave notes fall on my ear,  
Everything false will disappear. (Refrain)**

**Open my mouth, and let me bear,  
Gladly the warm truth everywhere;**

**Open my heart and let me prepare  
Love with Thy children thus to share. (Refrain)**

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

“As We Gather at Your Table,” Words and Music: Carl P Daw, Jack Schrader  
Tune: BEACH SPRING MUSIC: Attr. B. F. White (1800-1879), The Sacred Harp, 1844; Arr. ©  
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“Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread,” Words - ©1979 Hope Publishing Company, Contributors:  
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reserved.

We welcome the Rev. Bob Molsberry to our pulpit this morning. Bob is a retired UCC minister  
and a member of Congregational UCC. Bill Lovin will be back from vacation on April 24.

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 of Easter Worship	10:15 am
The Rev. Bob Molsberry preaching	
Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am
Christian Education	9:15 am
<b>No Adult Education Session</b>	
Children’s Church	During Worship
Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall	After Worship
Choir Rehearsal	11:15 am

THIS WEEK

❖ Tuesday	
Staff Meeting	Noon
Church Council	7:00 pm

NEXT SUNDAY

❖ Fourth Sunday of Easter Worship	10:15 am
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### **Spring Special Music Sunday**

Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am
Christian Education	9:15 am
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.

**THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO GAVE TO THE ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING:** This offering has long been an important part of the life of our congregation. 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 still give to support this important work. Use the special OGHS envelopes in the pews and put "OGHS" in the memo line of your check.

**BILL LOVIN WILL BE ON VACATION** through today, April 23. The Rev. Bob Molsberry is preaching this morning.

**SPRING SPECIAL MUSIC SUNDAY—APRIL 30:** During our worship next Sunday, April 30, the Congregational UCC Choir will offer a performance of *Illuminare* by composer and Iowa native, Elaine Hagenberg. The work will be conducted by Dr. Christopher Nakielski, with Bill Crouch on the organ, choir members and several area instrumentalists.

*Illuminare* is Hagenberg's first extended work, consisting of five-movements for chorus and chamber orchestra. Using lesser-known sacred Latin texts, the piece takes us through a season of beauty and goodness that has been disrupted by darkness and confusion. But as Light gradually returns, hope is restored, illuminating our future and guiding us in peace.

Please plan to join others here for this beloved springtime event. And invite a friend!

**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 is offering free CPR and AED training to the congregation. 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.

**THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH IS SPONSORING A TABLE at the Table to Table Annual Dinner on May 3.** The event takes place on **Wednesday, May 3**, at Celebration Farm in the Double Round Barn. Celebrate the impact T2T's food recovery efforts make in our community and learn more about how you can be involved. Weather permitting the event will utilize both indoor and outdoor space. Funds raised from this event will help us rescue more than 130,000 pounds of good food and deliver it throughout the Johnson County hunger relief network. Learn more [here](#).  
Want to join with others at our table? Please contact the church office at 337-4301.

**A NOTE FROM REV. ANN MOLSBERY**—The Circle of the Church Year I invite you to take a closer look at the Christian Education Bulletin Board in Rockford Hall. It is a display of our church school curriculum from this past year. I created the curriculum, gleaned from my experiences as a teacher and learning theory, our UCC theology, and my seminary education. The Circle of the Church Year is a three-year curriculum based on the chronological flow of Scripture and the Liturgical calendar of the church year. This is year One. It is based on teachers needing background and a brief, one-page Biblical interpretation of the lesson and the children needing a hands-on experience to learn. We've used art, music, drama, cooking, and poetry to reinforce the lessons. Enjoy!

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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.