

CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
30 N. CLINTON ST.  
IOWA CITY, IA 52245  
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WORSHIP FOR APRIL 26, 2020  
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

“Spring was a big deal in Iowa; the fields were a special green.”

John Irving

PRELUDE “Voluntary in B-Flat Major” Jonathan Battishill

EASTER GREETING AND WELCOME

Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed!**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Where the Iowa River bends

Come into the presence of God.

**Where the hills rise and fall around the city**

**Come into the presence of God.**

Where the fields spread out in every direction

Come into the presence of God.

**Where the Mississippi widens and moves on**

**Come into the presence of God.**

Wherever you are on this beautiful blue and green planet

Come into the presence of God.

**Let us worship together.**

HYMN “Morning Has Broken”

Due to copyright, we cannot print the words to “Morning Has Broken” here.

You can find the lyrics online through a search engine.

OPENING PRAYER

**We are existing from day to day, dear God. and we do not like this way of living. We find our purposes thwarted and our plans upended. We are caught between today and tomorrow unsure of what will happen or what will become of our world. When we face such anxiety help us to come into the present. Let us witness the branch beginning to bud and the bird returning to sing, and know we also are living things and made to enjoy each day on earth.**

**Here in this time we are thankful for the air that we breathe, the ground on which we reside, and for our being, body and soul that carries us through each day.**

**We thank you for all those who share our life with us, in all the varied ways they can, and for all those who share this life on earth. Remind us of the burdens of the day that others bear and that our strength is sufficient to take a share of it. Be with us and your world. Amen.**

TIME FOR CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE LESSON      Romans 8:18-25

PSALM 36:5-10

Your steadfast love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens,  
and your faithfulness to the clouds.

**Your righteousness is like the strong mountains,  
your justice like the great deep;  
you save humans and animals alike, O Lord.**

How priceless is your love, O God!  
your people take refuge under the shadow of your wings.

**They feast upon the abundance of your house;  
you give them drink from the river of your delights.**

For with you is the fountain of life,  
and in your light we see light.

**Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you,  
and your salvation to the upright of heart!**

SCRIPTURE LESSON      Matthew 6:25-34

HYMN      “God of the Sparrow”

**God of the sparrow  
God of the whale  
God of the swirling stars  
How does the creature say Awe  
How does the creature say Praise**

**God of the earthquake  
God of the storm  
God of the trumpet blast  
How does the creature cry Woe  
How does the creature cry Save**

**God of the rainbow  
God of the cross  
God of the empty grave  
How does the creature say Grace  
How does the creature say Thanks**

**God of the hungry  
God of the sick  
God of the prodigal  
How does the creature say Care  
How does the creature say Life**

**God of the neighbor  
God of the foe  
God of the pruning hook  
How does the creature say Love  
How does the creature say Peace**

**God of the ages  
God near at hand  
God of the loving heart  
How do your children say Joy  
How do your children say Home**

SERMON “The Beautiful Truth of Spring”

A TIME OF GRATITUDE

SOLO “A Simple Song” Leonard Bernstein/Steven Schwartz  
Josh Ramseyer, soloist

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

HYMN “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

**Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,  
God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee,  
Opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;  
Drive the dark of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
Fill us with the light of day!**

**All Thy works with joy surround Thee,  
Earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,  
Stars and angels sing around Thee,  
Center of unbroken praise;  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
Flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird and flowing fountain  
Call us to rejoice in Thee.**

**Mortals, join the happy chorus,  
Which the morning stars began;  
Love divine is reigning o'er us,  
Joining people in all lands.  
Ever singing, march we onward,  
Victors in the midst of strife;  
Joyful music leads us sunward  
In the triumph song of life.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Voluntary in C Major”

John Travers

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Organist: Bill Crouch  
Soloist: Josh Ramseyer