



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

WORSHIP FOR APRIL 30, 2023
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

“We get to tell a story. We get to create beauty. We get to offer hope. We get to offer comfort. And I think that these things are very timely right now.”

Elaine Hagenberg

PRELUDE “Alla breve” JKF Fischer

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

CHORAL INTROIT

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

God said, "Let there be light;" and there was light.

And God saw that the light was good.

God who said, "Out of darkness the light shall shine!"

**is the same God who made light shine in our hearts
to bring us the knowledge of God's glory
shining in the face of Christ.**

***HYMN 474 "O Splendor of God's Glory Bright"**

**O splendor of God's glory bright,
From light eternal bringing light;
Thou light of life, light's living spring,
True day, all days illumining.**

**Come, Holy Sun of heavenly love,
Shower down Thy radiance from above,
And to our inward hearts convey
The Holy Spirit's cloudless ray.**

**O joyful be the passing day
With thoughts as clear as morning's ray,
With faith like noontide shining bright,
Our souls unshadowed by the night.**

**O Lord, with each returning morn
Thine image to our hearts is born;
O may we ever clearly see
Our Savior and our God in Thee!**

***OPENING PRAYER**

God of dawn and new beginnings, the light comes out of the darkness and both are sacred to you. With the start of this new day, we give you thanks for all that we are and all that we will become.

**We thank you for all good things-
for the air that we breathe,
for the ground on which we walk,
and for our very being, body and soul,
that makes us who we are.**

Be with us in this place in this time. May we rejoice and be glad as we worship together. Strengthen us to share each other's burdens, seek justice, and increase the good. Help us to carry the joy and power of resurrection with us every day. Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (121, vs. 1 & 3)

**That Easter day with joy was bright:
the sun shone out with fairer light**

when to their longing eyes restored,
th'apostles saw their risen Lord.

**O Lord of all, with us abide
in this, our joyful Easter-tide;
from ev'ry weapon death can wield
thine own redeemed forever shield.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 1:1-5

PSALM 139

Lord, you have searched me out and known me;
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.

**You trace my journeys and my resting-places
and are acquainted with all my ways**

Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.

**You press upon me behind and before
and lay your hand upon me.**

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

**Where can I go then from your Spirit?
where can I flee from your presence?**

If I climb up to heaven, you are there;
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.

**If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,**

even there your hand will lead me
and your right hand hold me fast.

**If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me,
and the light around me turn to night,"**

darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day;
darkness and light to you are both alike.

**How deep I find your thoughts, O God!
how great is the sum of them!**

If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand;
to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.

**Search me out, O God, and know my heart;
try me and know my restless thoughts.**

[Unison]

**Look well whether there be any wickedness in me
and lead me in the way that is everlasting.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 1:1-5

(Children are dismissed to Children's Church)

A CHORAL OFFERING "Illuminare" Elaine Hagenberg

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 "Andante" Josef Renner

*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

*HYMN 263 "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.**

**Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;
Thy justice, like mountains, high soaring above
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small;
In all life Thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish; but naught changeth Thee.**

**Thou reignest in glory, Thou rulest in light,
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee!**

BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE	“Voluntary in C Major”	Charles Vincent
	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

❖ Fourth Sunday of Easter Worship	10:15 am
Spring Special Music Sunday	
Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am
Christian Education	9:15 am
No Adult Education Session	
Children’s Church	During Worship
Celebration Brunch	After Worship

THIS WEEK

❖ Tuesday	
Board of Christian Education	6:30 pm
Mission Board	7:00 pm

NEXT SUNDAY

❖ Fifth Sunday of Easter Worship	10:15 am
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.

THANKS FOR BEING HERE FOR OUR SPRING SPECIAL MUSIC SUNDAY. This morning the Congregational UCC Choir will offer a performance of *Illuminare* by composer and Iowa native, Elaine Hagenberg. *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.

AFTER WORSHIP, JOIN US FOR BRUNCH: The Membership Board invites you to Brunch today following worship. Randee Fieselmann will give a talk: “Our Tiffany Window.” New members, prospective members, longtime members, and visitors are all welcome.

THIS YEAR MARKS THE 15TH YEAR OF THE DEDICATION OF THE ORGAN. Bill Dickinson has two bound volumes of photos of the removal of the old Wicks and the installation of the Casavant including many photos of the organ at the Casavant factory. Also in these volumes are all of the details of the purchase and Casavant’s original renderings of the organ and console. These volumes will be available in Rockwood Hall.

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH IS SPONSORING A TABLE at the Table to Table Annual Dinner on May 3. The event takes place this Wednesday 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 them 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 Rockwood 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!

A NEW MEMBER CLASS WILL BE HELD IN MAY. If you are interested in joining Congregational UCC or would like more information about who we are, please talk with Bill Lovin.

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: We received over \$3,500. 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.

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 Board). 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.

HOPE LODGE: Our next Hope Lodge dinner will be Monday, May 22. If you would like to contribute food see the sign-up sheet in Rockwood Hall. If you have questions, talk to Sue Dayton or email cdayton7@mchsi.com.

ADULT EDUCATION SESSIONS CONCLUDE A YEAR OF EXPLORING POLARIZATION AND THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY: Since last September our Sunday morning adult education sessions have been considering how we talk with each other in this polarized time. Among other resources, we've watched several videos from Princeton Theological Seminary's "Future of American Democracy" series. We'll wrap up our sessions on the first three Sundays in May, considering "Does Institutional Christianity Have a Future?" with Rev. Adam Russell Taylor, President of Sojourners, and Rev. Dr. Russell Moore, Public Theologian at Christianity Today. They discuss the ongoing role Christian institutions play in supporting the project of democracy, and how political binaries work against our identities as siblings in Christ. We'll also listen as Princeton Theological Seminary faculty discuss the impact of polarization on students, campus culture, the classroom, and how theological education offers a way forward., in "Is Life Together Still Possible? Polarization and Princeton Seminary." Join us in Rockwood Hall on May 7, 14, and 21, at 9:15 a.m.

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.