



Third Station of the Resurrection: The Walk to Emmaus (detail), 1970.

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

WORSHIP FOR APRIL 7, 2024
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Today is a communion Sunday. Before joining the worship service, you are invited to get whatever you eat and whatever you drink. It can be bread and grape juice or wine or as simple as a cracker or rice cake and water for use in our worship.

O love that fires the sun
Keep me burning.
Lord of the starfields
Sower of life,
Heaven and earth are
Full of your light

Voice of the nova
Smile of the dew
All of our yearning
Only comes home to you
Bruce Cockburn

PRELUDE "Fughetta" Gottlieb Muffat

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
Christ is risen!

John Fieselmann, Liturgist

Christ is risen indeed!

CHORAL INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

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 121 "That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright"

**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.**

**From every weapon death can wield,
Your own redeemed forever shield.**

**O Lord of all, with us abide
In this our joyful Eastertide.**

*OPENING PRAYER

O God, we marvel at the wonders of the universe beyond us. We give you thanks for the knowledge that allows us to feel awe rather than fear at the movements of our sun and moon and planet. Help us to find for our own lives the rhythm of your world and how we fit among all that is. What confounds us still, O Lord, are the workings of our own hearts and the inner motions of other minds. By the power of your presence open our eyes and with your grace give us understanding as we travel the course of our daily lives. Amen.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#118, vs. 3)

**Now let the heavens be joyful!
Let earth the song begin!
Let the round world keep triumph,
and all that is therein!
Let all things seen and unseen
their notes in gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord is risen,
our joy that hath no end.**

ANTHEM “Splendor” from *Illuminare*

Elaine Hagenberg

Splendor paternae gloriae,
de luce lucem proferens,
lux lucis et fons luminis,
diem dies illuminans.

Splendor of God's glory,
brings forth light from light,
light of light,
light's living spring,
Day, all days illuminates.

SERVICE OF GIVING

Invitation

Offertory “Andante amabile” Johann Kuhnau

*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 Deuteronomy 30:11-14

PSALM 19

The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the firmament shows forth the work of God's hands.

**One day tells its tale to another,
and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

Although they have no words or language,
and their voices are not heard,

**their sound has gone out into all lands,
and their message to the ends of the world.**

In the deep has God set a pavilion for the sun;
it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

**It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens
and runs about to the end of it again;
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 24:13-35

SERMON “The Eclipse of the Christ”

THE LORD’S SUPPER

INVITATION

*HYMN 514 “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”

**Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy.
Bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.**

Refrain:

**Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again;
pass the Word around: loaves abound!
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again;
pass the Word around: loaves abound!**

**Christ is able to make us one.
At the table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love in word and in deed express. [Refrain]**

**Jesus calls us in, sends us out
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share.
God (Emmanuel) everywhere! [Refrain]**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

REMEMBERING

On the night of his arrest...

**Risen Christ, as we eat this bread, open our eyes.
As we drink this cup, warm our hearts.
Help us recognize in the present
the promise of life made new. Amen.**

SHARING OF ELEMENTS

(Communion will be served in the pews today. Please receive the bread or cup as they are offered to you by a deacon. Hold it until all have been served, and we will eat and drink together at the pastor's guidance. We serve grape juice, not wine. Gluten-free wafers are on the trays with the bread. In the Congregational United Church of Christ, we celebrate the Lord's Supper with openness and welcome. Everyone is invited to the table, regardless of church membership or denominational affiliation.)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give thanks, O God, for the clarity this shared meal brings. Send us out to seek understanding as we walk day by day. Amen.

* HYMN 464 "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 all in heaven's plan.**

**Ever singing, march we onward,
Victors in the midst of strife;
Joyful music leads us sunward
In the triumph song of life.**

*BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE “Maestoso” Johann Kindermann

Cover Art: *Third Station of the Resurrection: The Walk to Emmaus* (detail), 1970. Rowan LeCompte (American, 1925–2014) and Irene Matz LeCompte (American, 1926–1970), Mosaic, Resurrection Chapel, National Cathedral, Washington, DC.

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Minister:	The Rev. Bill Lovin
Director of Children’s Programs:	The Rev. Ann Molsberry
Organist:	Bill Crouch
Choir Director	Dr. Chris Nakielski
Children’s Choir Director	Majesty Constable
Office Manager	Jenn Harden

TODAY

❖ Church School Breakfast	9:00 am
Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am
Christian Education	9:15 am
Worship Service	10:15 am
Choir Rehearsal	11:30 am

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WE’RE GLAD THAT YOU ARE WORSHIPPING WITH US THIS MORNING. Everyone is invited to Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall after worship.

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO GAVE TO OUR ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING: We have received over \$3960 so far—and there’s still time to give! This offering has long been an important part of the life of our congregation. For many years now, we have been on the list of Top 100 giving churches. In a world where communities are being displaced by the catastrophes of war, famine, and natural disaster, our congregation joins with many others

in standing in faith, hope, and love with those who seek to move beyond the trauma of displacement toward the promise of healing and peace. 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. Thanks again!

THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD IS ACTIVELY SEARCHING FOR A NEW DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION. A complete job description will be posted on the church website. Advertising will commence by the end of March. Members of the congregation are encouraged to spread the word and have interested persons contact Rev. William Lovin uccicrev@uccic.org and Sally Strang sallystrang@mchsi.com.

A NEW MEMBER CLASS will be held in April. If you are interested in joining Congregational UCC or would like to know more about us, we invite you to attend these sessions. For more information, please talk with Bill Lovin or call the church office, 337-4301.

SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, April 28, the Membership Board is hosting a Spring Brunch following the Special Music service. During this time, we will recognize members who joined the church this past year. The brunch will be catered. So, no need to bring anything. To help us plan, we would like to get an approximate count of how many people will attend. Please indicate on the sign-up sheets in Rockwood Hall if you plan to attend and how many may be coming with you. We are looking forward to this time to celebrate spring and enjoy beautiful music.

OUR CHURCH HAS BEEN INVITED TO THE AGAPE CAFE FUNDRAISER at Old Brick on Saturday, May 4th from 7:30 to 11:30 am. Please feel free to come for a free breakfast and conversation. The Congregational UCC has supported Agape Cafe, a provider of weekly free breakfasts for those who come, in the past. Come see what they do!

PLEASE HELP WITH PARKING IN THE CHURCH LOT: Several people currently have mobility issues and need to park in our small parking lot on Jefferson St. If you are able, please park elsewhere so that the marked and unmarked spaces can be used by those who need them. Thanks.

ANOTHER WAY TO HELP THE HOMELESS: Trinity United Methodist Church of Riverside Iowa has purchased a loom and is using clean, plastic bags to construct Sleeping Mats for the homeless. These are lightweight, waterproof, and easy to pack and carry. By contributing our clean, plastic bags, we can help them help others. Bring your clean, unneeded, plastic grocery bags, or trash bags, any color, any size, here, to Rockwood Hall. We will see to it that they are delivered.

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 (319-337-4301) know right away. 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.