



“They hurried away from the tomb in awe and great joy, and ran to bring the news to the disciples. Suddenly Jesus was there in their path.” (Matthew 28:8)

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

WORSHIP FOR APRIL 9, 2023
EASTER 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. It is just as important as ever to attend to the little graces by which the dignity of our lives is maintained and sustained. Birds still sing; the stars continue to cast their gentle gleam over the desolation of the battlefields, and the heart is still inspired by the kind word and the gracious deed.”

Howard Thurman

PRELUDE “Allegro” from *Sonata for Organ*, Op. 65 No. 1 Felix Mendelssohn

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tina Koepnick, Liturgist

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

CHORAL INTROIT

“An Easter Introit”

Richard Slater

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The sun rises

On a world renewed

The sun rises

To the cry “Hallelujah!”

Come out of shadows into light.

Come out of grief into joy.

Come out of fear into hope.

Christ who was dead

is raised to life.

*HYMN “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”

EASTER HYMN

“Christ the Lord is risen today, “Alleluia!

All creation join to say: Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs high; Alleluia!

Sing, O heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!

Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!

Death in vain forbids Christ rise, Alleluia!

God has opened paradise, Alleluia!

Hail, the Lord of earth and heaven! Alleluia!

Praise to You by both be given; Alleluia!

Every knee to You shall bow, Alleluia!

Risen Christ, triumphant now. Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!

Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!

Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!

Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

OPENING PRAYER

Creator God, creating still, we come before you seeking to be a people of the resurrection.

Be known among us; give us the assurance of your presence, and renew us with the unexpected joy of this day. Look upon all those whose lives are so burdened the joy of resurrection cannot break in. With your strength, help us accompany them so they may also enter this new day. May each one of us with all our difficulties and opportunities go forward in faith and hope. As a people reveal to us our common purpose. Amen.

ANTHEM "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"

S. Drummond Wolff

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 "Holy Is God the Lord"

Felix Mendelssohn

*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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 25:6-9

PSALM 118:1-2, 14-24

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

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

The Lord is my strength and my song
and has become my salvation.

**There is a sound of exultation and victory
in the tents of the righteous:**

"The right hand of the Lord has triumphed!
the right hand of the Lord is exalted!
the right hand of the Lord has triumphed!"

**I shall not die, but live,
and declare the works of the Lord.**

The Lord has punished me sorely
but did not hand me over to death.

**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.**

[Unison]

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

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 28:1-10

SERMON “The Surprise of Easter”

*HYMN 122 “Thine is the Glory”

**Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son:
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won;
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.**

Refrain:

**Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.**

**Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let the church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing,
for the Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting. [Refrain]**

**No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;
life is naught without thee: aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love:
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above. [Refrain]**

*BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE “An Easter Fanfare” David Ashley White

POSTLUDE “Allegro” from *Suite Gothique* Leon Boëllmann

Opening Prayer altered and adapted from *A Call to Prayer*, ed. by Caryl Micklem.

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

- ❖ Easter Sunday Worship 10:15 am
- Breakfast Beginning at 8:30
- Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am
- No Christian Education
- Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall After Worship

NEXT SUNDAY

- ❖ Second Sunday of Easter Worship 10:15 am
- The Rev. Bob Molsberry preaching
- 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
- Youth Group 3:00-4:30 p.m.
- Wild Woods Farm

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 MADE OUR LENTEN OBSERVANCES AND EASTER CELEBRATIONS SO SPECIAL THIS YEAR: The Board of Christian Education for planning the Ash Wednesday dinner that was canceled because of bad weather, Patte Henderson and Bryan Clemons for coordinating our daily Lenten Reflections and all who wrote Reflections, the choir, Chris Nakielski, and Bill Crouch for glorious music through these days, the children of the church school, Ann Molsberry and the church school teachers for their Palm Sunday worship leadership, the Deacons for guiding us as we continue our rebuilding journey, the men of the church for serving the Easter breakfast, all who read during worship or led worship, everyone who contributed to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering, and everyone who has joined us for worship throughout Lent and this morning.

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED SHOWER THE SANCTUARY WITH FLOWERS THIS MORNING. The flowers given by Dianne Atkins and Andy Bertolatus are in memory of Mabel & John Bertolatus, and Eugenia & Joseph Atkins. The flowers given by Sandra Lacina are in memory of Kenneth Lacina. And the flowers given by Laurie Stunz and Tom Mittman are in memory of Gene & Helen Stunz and Art & Mony Mittmann.

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO GAVE TO THE ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING LAST SUNDAY: 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 from Monday, April 10 through Sunday, April 23. The Rev. Bob Molsberry will be preaching on both April 16 and 23.

MEN’S BREAKFAST—APRIL 15: The April Men’s Breakfast will be held at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 15, at the Waterfront Hy-Vee. All Congregational UCC men who eat breakfast are invited. This is a great way to catch up with old friends and meet new friends. Join us!

WOMEN’S LUNCH—APRIL 20: The April women's lunch will meet at 11:45 a.m. on Thursday, April 20, at Red Ginger, 2419 2nd St., Coralville, Please call or Text Martha Ann Crawford at 319-855-8340 to reserve a seat at the table.

SPRING SPECIAL MUSIC SUNDAY—APRIL 30: During our worship on 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 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.

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.

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.

On the Cover: Long considered a symbol of hope and new life, the daffodil is one of the blooms most often connected to the Resurrection. Tradition says that giving a gift of daffodils will ensure happiness for the receiver.