



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

WORSHIP FOR MAY 14, 2023  
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

“From first till last, from the time with John the Baptist till now, John tells no more of Jesus’ will than can be contained in one sentence, *Believe that I am and love one another.*”  
Reynolds Price

PRELUDE                      “Fantasy in C Major,” BWV 570                      J.S. Bach

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS                      Kevin Koepnick, Liturgist  
Christ is risen!  
**Christ is risen indeed!**

\* CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 84)

How lovely is your dwelling place,  
O God of hosts!

**My soul longs and yearns for your courts;  
my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.**

Even the sparrow finds a home,  
and the swallow a nest for herself,  
where she may lay her young, at your altars,  
O God of hosts, my ruler and God.

**Blessed are those who dwell in your house,  
ever singing your praise.**

**Blessed are those whose strength is in you.**

\*HYMN 207           “How Lovely, Lord”

**How lovely, Lord, how lovely  
is your abiding place;  
my soul is longing, fainting,  
to feast upon your grace.  
The sparrow finds a shelter,  
a place to build her nest,  
and so your temple calls us  
with in its walls to rest.**

**In your blest courts to worship,  
O God, a single day  
is better than a thousand  
if I from you should stray.  
I'd rather keep the entrance  
and claim you as my Lord  
than revel in the riches  
the ways of sin afford.**

**A sun and shield forever  
are you, O Lord Most High;  
you shower us with blessings;  
no good will you deny.  
The saints, your grace receiving,  
from strength to strength shall go,  
and from their life shall rivers  
of blessing overflow.**

\*OPENING PRAYER (a prayer of Henri Capieu)

**God, we sing to you and give you thanks. For despite our pains and faults, in the midst of our pains and faults, we know that you are a God who calls forth our praise and love.**

**For the world, so beautiful and so fragile; for life, so lovely and so threatened; for this immense universe in which your realm will spread, we praise you.**

**For this day which speaks to us again of the resurrection, for your Spirit which unites us, we praise you.**

**And because we can love you and love each other on the earth, in the name of the love of Christ, in peace and with joy, God we praise you. Amen.**

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#602, vs. 1)

**Blest be the God of Israel, Who comes to set us free;  
Who visits and redeems us, Who grants us liberty.  
The prophets spoke of mercy, Of freedom and release;  
God shall fulfill that promise And bring the people peace.**

ANTHEM      “Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring”                      J.S. Bach, arr. Mark Hayes  
                    Tim Strang & Bill Crouch, piano

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      “Preludio” (E Minor), BWV 941                      J.S. Bach

\*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

(Children are dismissed to Children’s Church)

SCRIPTURE LESSON      I John 4:7-12

PSALMS 133 & 134

Oh, how good and pleasant it is,  
when the community lives together in unity!

**It is like fine oil upon the head  
that runs down upon the beard,**

upon the beard of Aaron,  
and runs down upon the collar of his robe.

**It is like the dew of Hermon**

**that falls upon the hills of Zion.**

For there the Lord has ordained the blessing:  
life forevermore.

**Behold now, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord,  
you that stand by night in the house of the Lord.**

Lift up your hands in the holy place and bless the Lord;  
**the Lord who made heaven and earth bless you out of Zion.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON      John 14:15-24

SERMON      “Be Kind and Love One Another”

\*HYMN 376      “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

**Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heaven to earth come down,  
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,  
All Thy faithful mercies crown!  
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,  
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;  
Visit us with Thy salvation,  
Enter every trembling heart.**

**Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit  
Into every troubled breast!  
Let us all in Thee inherit,  
Let us find that second rest;  
Take away the love of sinning;  
Alpha and Omega be;  
End of faith, as its beginning,  
Set our hearts at liberty.**

**Come, Almighty to deliver,  
Let us all Thy life receive;  
Suddenly return, and never,  
Nevermore Thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,  
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing,  
Glory in Thy perfect love.**

**Finish, then, Thy new creation;  
Pure and spotless let us be;  
Let us see Thy great salvation  
Perfectly restored in Thee;  
Changed from glory into glory,  
Till in heaven we take our place,**

**Till we cast our crowns before Thee,  
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Prelude & Fugue in C Major,” BWV 553 J.S. Bach

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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

- ❖ Sixth Sunday of Easter Worship 10:15 am  
**No Choir Practice**  
Christian Education 9:15 am  
Children’s Church During Worship  
Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall After Worship

THIS WEEK

- ❖ Tuesday
  - Membership Board 5:30 pm
  - Deacons 6:00 pm
  - Trustees 7:00 pm
  - Stewardship Board 7:00 pm
- ❖ Thursday Women’s Lunch 11:45 a.m.  
@ Big Grove
- ❖ Saturday Men’s Breakfast 8:00 a.m.  
@ Waterfront Hy-Vee

NEXT SUNDAY

- ❖ Seventh Sunday of Easter Worship 10:15 am

Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am
Final Christian Education Sessions until September	9:15
Children's Church	During Worship
Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall	After Worship
Youth Group at First Presbyterian	3:00 pm

**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.

**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, gleaning 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!

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE RECOGNITION—MAY 28:** Every year we recognize the high school graduates in our congregation. This year Ben Hoefler will graduate from West High. Ben will attend The University of Iowa starting in August and plans to study engineering. The Diaconate has books available in Rockwood Hall in which you can share your thoughts and good wishes with Ben We will recognize Ben during worship on May 28.

**SERVE AT HOPE LODGE IN MAY:** Our next Hope Lodge dinner will be May 22. If you would like to participate see the sign-up sheet in Rockwood Hall. If you have questions, contact Sue Dayton, [cdayton7@mchsi.com](mailto:cdayton7@mchsi.com)

**WEAR RED ON PENTECOST SUNDAY—MAY 28:** We will celebrate Pentecost on May 28. This day completes the long arc from Ash Wednesday through Easter resurrection to the coming of the Holy Spirit to the followers of Christ—a journey “from ashes to fire.” Pentecost marks God’s gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church and our morning will be a spirited time together. The traditional color for Pentecost is red. We invite everyone to please consider wearing “flame colors”—red, orange, yellow—to worship on Sunday, May 24.

**STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING WILL BE RECEIVED ON PENTECOST SUNDAY—MAY 28:** Each year we receive a special offering that helps the church’s love to grow and thrive. The “Strengthen the Church” offering grows the United Church of Christ’s future by supporting new and renewing churches, youth and young adult ministries, and lay and pastoral leadership development—especially among women and people of color. It also funds the “Stillspeaking” Ministry, spreading the message of God’s extravagant welcome, reaching out especially to those who have felt there is no room for them within Christianity and the church.

On *Sunday, May 28*—Pentecost Sunday—we will receive this offering. Your generous gift will help the UCC create vibrant church communities of extravagant welcome.

**WE'RE SERVING AT THE FREE LUNCH PROGRAM IN MAY.** When there is a fifth Monday in a month, Congregational UCC serves at the Free Lunch Program. We'll be there on Monday, May 29. Interested in helping in some way? Please email Vicki Thomae at [vickithomae@gmail.com](mailto:vickithomae@gmail.com). Thanks!

**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.

**ALL ARE WELCOME** here and in keeping with our historic practice of inclusion, we will again participate in the Iowa City Pride Festival events on Saturday, June 17. The Mission Board needs your help to make our presence impactful that day. If you would like to help organize and/or work with a subcommittee to create our display and parade participation, please contact the church office or any member of the subcommittee: Linda Muston, Hope Spragg, Julie Wittig, Paula Forest, Martha Ann Crawford or Diane Atkins. There is a special need for an “experienced, seasoned” parade organizer, especially one with a truck or convertible! The theme, It's A matter of Pride Iowa City!, can also apply to our participation in this event.

### **THE GRAND FINALE!**

**Sunday School:** Our last day of Sunday School and celebration **Ice Cream Social** will be on **Sunday, May 21st**. This marks the end of our school year. Come and have cake and ice cream for breakfast served to you by the Board of Christian Education! We will honor and recognize our Acolytes at worship on this morning by presenting them with Acolyte Pins.

We will see you next year on Rally Day, Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. Have a fun and safe summer break!!

**Children's Choir:** Children's Choir will share for the last time this year during worship on **Sunday, May 21st**.

**Youth group:** Youth Group will meet for the last time this year at the Presbyterian church on **Sunday, May 21st from 3-4:30**.

**Childcare:** Childcare will be provided through the summer for worship from 10:00-11:30.

**FOR PENTECOST, HOPE SPRAGG IS CREATING A SPECIAL INSTALLATION** of the Holy Spirit using her Storyteller's Tree that was first presented to our congregation at our Christmas Pageant...and you get to participate! Look for a table set up in Rockford Hall with supplies for you to use to decorate your own version of a Bird of the Holy Spirit. Hope will use the birds to re-create her Storyteller's Tree for Pentecost Sunday.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL DATE ANNOUNCED! MAKE ROOM ON YOUR CALENDAR!** Vacation Bible School will be at our church during PRIDE WEEKEND 2023. **Come celebrate with us on Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup> from 9-12.**

We will have a conversation about PRIDE and why it is important to *this* church. We will watch the award-winning Canadian film “Sticks and Stones” and talk about why PRONOUNS matter. We will decorate and EAT Rainbow cupcakes AND make a Rainbow Windchime to take home.

**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.

**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, Julie Wittig, 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.