



Frank Wesley, 1923-2002. "New Wine in Old Wineskins"

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

WORSHIP FOR MAY 15, 2022
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

“We tend to follow Christ at a safe distance, maintain control, and integrate our faith into older, established patterns of thinking and behavior. But the church that is not culturally bound finds new wineskins in every generation. The essence of Christianity does not change, but the cultural wrappings are always changing.”

Al Masters

PRELUDE “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” Gerhard Krapf

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS James Robinson, Liturgist

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed!

CHORAL INTROIT

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

As high as the stars are beyond the earth,
so great is God's love for those who live in awe.

**Praise the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
praise God's holy name.**

God redeems your life from hopelessness,
and crowns you with love and mercy.

**Praise the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all God's benefits.**

As long as you live, God will satisfy you,
your spirit will soar like young eagles.

**Let all places and all creatures praise God.
Praise the Lord, O my soul!**

***HYMN 272** "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

*OPENING PRAYER

God of resurrection, when our hearts are weary, help us to watch and wait and work for the new thing you are doing in our world and in our midst. Give us, your creatures, the words to speak of your forgiving grace that brings us into a new day. As we worship, may we find renewal in your care and strength in your Spirit for the days ahead. Amen.

ANTHEM "Sing to the Lord a New Song" Robert Lau

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" John Stainer

*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

(At this time, children are dismissed to attend Children's Church.)

SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 43:14-21

PSALM 126

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
then were we like those who dream.

**Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy.**

Then they said among the nations,
"The Lord has done great things for them."

**The Lord has done great things for us,
and we are glad indeed.**

Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like the watercourses of the Negev.

**Those who sowed with tears
will reap with songs of joy.**

[Unison]

**Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 9:14-17

SERMON “What We Learned in the Pandemic (So Far) (Part Two)”

* 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

*CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” Charles Callahan

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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

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 required for all people in all parts of the building. We will keep social distance in the pews. Everyone is invited to Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall after worship. Masks are optional in Rockwood Hall during Coffee Hour.

USHERS, GREETERS, AND HOSPITALITY OPPORTUNITIES: As we continue to reopen, there are new 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.

SPRING SPECIAL MUSIC SUNDAY—MAY 22: On Sunday, May 22nd, the UCCIC Choir will launch another wonderful Special Music Sunday performance of Haydn's "Little Organ Mass." The work will be conducted by Dr. Christopher Nakielski, featuring soprano soloist Marie Von Behren, William Crouch on the organ, and several area instrumentalists. This beautiful, miniature mass (approximately 16 minutes) is thought to come from Haydn's stay at Eisenstadt during the winter of 1777-78.

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. Interested in helping in some way? Please email Vicki at vickithomae@gmail.com. Thanks!

SIGN UP FOR *CHANGE AGENT*: AN ONLINE UCC MISSION BOARD SOCIAL CHANGE BULLETIN BOARD: The Mission Board is responding to requests from the congregation and creating an Online Social Change Bulletin Board. This monthly email publication will be a system that will include notices of rallies, petitions, upcoming legislative or policy actions warranting letters or phone calls, protests, important meetings of the school board or city council, each of which has the potential to increase social justice. Highest priority alerts will be local actions, then state actions and national actions. Notices will not support political candidates or parties. More information is in the May Newsletter. We would be delighted if everyone in the congregation is interested in subscribing. If you would like to receive these monthly mailings send your contact information to Jenn Harden, uccicadmin@uccic.org. Our goal is to begin the mailings this month.

THE WOMEN'S LUNCH WILL RESUME on Thursday, May 19, 11:45. at Monica's. Call or text Martha Ann Crawford—319-855-8340—to reserve a seat.

THE MEN'S BREAKFAST IN MAY will be held this coming Saturday, May 21. We'll gather at the Waterfront Hy-Vee at 8:00 a.m. Good food, great people. Join us! (No reservation needed.)

LAST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL ICE CREAM SOCIAL! Come celebrate a successful Sunday School year with games... and ice cream for breakfast! Sunday, May 29 from 9:15-10am. Worship is at 10:15am.

FESTIVAL OF FLOWERS: United Action for Youth will be hosting their 17th Annual Festival of Flowers on May 26th and you are invited! The theme of this year's Festival of Flowers event is "Look for the Helpers." The flower show will feature nearly 100 creative floral entries from community members and professional florists that will be available for purchase in a silent auction. An on-line auction will feature upscale packages such as dinner parties, interior design services, date nights, photo sessions and behind the scenes access to some of Iowa City's most beloved arts organizations. The evening's entertainment will be the Bloomin' Throwdown - a live floral arranging competition! Charcuterie and wine will be provided as part of your reservation. Make your reservation online at www.biddingowl.com/Auction/home.cfm?auctionID=29857.

TABLE TO TABLE IS IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS to help with maintaining their mission of connecting abundance with need in Johnson County. They are incredibly flexible: whatever your schedule is, they can probably work with it! They have volunteers that come in twice a week and volunteers that come in twice a month and both are valuable to the organization. Duties can include: harvesting produce at farms and orchards, driving or riding in T2T vans on routes to pick up and deliver food, helping prep vans for their routes in our shop (move empty boxes around while listening to some tunes!), offering free fresh produce in at-need neighborhoods, and more. If your interest is piqued, check out their website (table2table.org), contact the, at volunteer@table2table.org or at 319-337-3400.

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH IS SPONSORING A TABLE at the Table to Table 25th Anniversary Dinner on June 8. The event takes place on **Wednesday, June 8** at the **Celebration Farm** in the Double Round Barn. 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: [Table to Table's 25th Anniversary Dinner presented by Hills Bank](#)
Want to join with others at our table? Please contact the church office at 337-4301.



WANT TO GIVE ONLINE? SCAN THE QR CODE FOR OUR GIVING APP. Your giving makes a world of difference.

WE ARE NOW LIVE STREAMING 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/1547852>. The recordings remain up permanently, so you can watch past worship services at your convenience or recommend them to a friend.