



“Skyspace” by James Turrell

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

WORSHIP FOR MAY 21, 2023
ASCENSION SUNDAY

“When we reflect on the life of faith in and with Jesus Christ as the companion of the trusting and would-be loyal self, we find that what is present is not a Jesus of history but the Christ of faith, not Jesus incarnate, but the risen Lord. The given fact is not some historical truth which the self believes on the basis of its confidence in other persons, such as apostles and gospel writers, though such truths are also believed. The given fact is Jesus Christ as the present companion of the persons who trust him and seek to be loyal to him.”

H. Richard Niebuhr

PRELUDE “Prelude on Hymn Tune ‘St. Peter’” Healy Willan

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS John Fieselmann, Liturgist

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

CHORAL INTROIT

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Praise the Sovereign God, all you nations!
give praise, all you peoples

**For great is God's steadfast love toward us,
and the faithfulness of God endures forever.
Alleluia!**

***HYMN 288 "I Sing the Mighty Power of God"**

**I sing the mighty power of God
That made the mountains rise;
That spread the flowing seas abroad
And built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained
The sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at God's command,
And all the stars obey.**

**I sing the goodness of the Lord
That filled the earth with food;
God formed the creatures with a word
And then pronounced them good.
Lord, how Thy wonders are displayed,
Where'er I turn my eyes;
If I survey the ground I tread,
Or gaze upon the skies!**

**There's not a plant or flower below
But makes Thy glories known;
And clouds arise, and tempests blow,
By order from Thy throne;
While all that borrows life from Thee
Is ever in Thy care,
And everywhere that we can be,
Thou, God, art present there.**

***OPENING PRAYER**

**We praise you, O God, and thank you,
for your merciful kindness ins great toward us
and your faithfulness endures forever.
Keep us from being so steeped in care,
or so thoughtless of your presence,
that we pass unseeing and unheeding,
even when the bush by the wayside is aflame with your glory.
Open the eyes of our minds**

**to the tokens of your power and goodness around and within us.
And fill our hearts, O God, with your love,
our mouths with your praise, and our lives with your obedience,
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#181, vs. 4)

**You change my grief to joy-filled dance, My sorrows You destroy.
In faithfulness You hear my cry And fill my life with joy.
And so to You my heart shall sing, My voice your goodness raise.
You are my God, for evermore, My life shall sing Your praise.**

ANTHEM “God Is Gone Up with a Shout” Healy Willian

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” Heinrich Goetze

*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 TIME

(Children are dismissed to Children’s Church)

SCRIPTURE LESSON Acts 1:1-11

PSALM 47

Clap your hands, all you peoples;
shout to God with a cry of joy.

**For the Lord Most High is to be feared,
the great Sovereign over all the earth.**

The Lord subdues the peoples under us,
and the nations under our feet.

The Lord chooses our inheritance for us,

the pride of the beloved Jacob.

God has gone up with a shout,
the Lord with the sound of the ram's-horn.

**Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our Sovereign, sing praises.**

For God is Sovereign of all the earth;
sing praises with all your skill.

**God reigns over the nations;
God sits upon heaven's holy throne.**

The nobles of the peoples have gathered together
with the people of the God of Abraham.

**The rulers of the earth belong to God,
and God is highly exalted.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 28:16-20

SERMON “With Us Always”

*HYMN 420 “God of Grace and God of Glory”

**God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your power;
crown your ancient church's story,
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.**

**Lo! the hosts of evil round us
scorn the Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.**

**Cure your children's warring madness;
bend our pride to your control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal.**

**Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
let the gift of your salvation**

**be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore**

*BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE “Our God, Our Help in Ages Past” Healey Willan

COVER GRAPHIC: Turrell, James. Skyspace, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=55702> [retrieved May 17, 2023]. Original source: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/21804434@N02/5394865139>. Used with permission. "A Skyspace is an enclosed room large enough for roughly 15 people. Inside, the viewers sit on benches along the edge to view the sky through an opening in the roof. As a lifelong Quaker, Turrell designed the Live Oak Meeting House for the Society of Friends, with an opening or skyhole in the roof, wherein the notion of light takes on a decidedly religious connotation." [from Wikipedia] -- Photograph by Mira66

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

TODAY

- ❖ Seventh Sunday of Easter Worship 10:15 am
 - Choir Practice 9:00
 - Final Christian Education Sessions 9:15
 - until September
 - Children’s Church During Worship
 - Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall After Worship
 - Youth Group at First Presbyterian 3:00 pm

THIS WEEK

- ❖ Tuesday
 - Church Council 7:00 pm

NEXT SUNDAY

- ❖ Pentecost Sunday Worship 10:15 am
 - Recognition of High School Graduate
 - Choir Rehearsal 9:00 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.

A NOTE FROM REV. ANN MOLSBERRY—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!

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

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. Thanks!

MISSION BOARD MEMBERS ARE INVITING YOU TO PARTICIPATE WITH THEM AND OTHER CHURCH MEMBERS ON THE SATURDAY, JUNE 17, IOWA CITY PRIDE FESTIVAL EVENTS. 🌈

There will be a sign-up sheet on a clipboard circulating in Rockwood Hall during coffee hour with opportunities to be in the *parade* and work at the *booth*. Please join us! As LGBTQ people and their Allies and consistent with our welcoming and affirming commitment, a display in Rockwood Hall continues to present timely opportunities and information supporting our efforts. If you have ideas, interest or concerns, visit with any of the subcommittee members: Hope Spragg, Linda Muston, Rebecca Weatherford, Julie Wittig, Paula Forest, Martha Ann Crawford, or Dianne Atkins.

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 10th. 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 Rockwood 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.

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.

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 kd Richards1958@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 kd Richards1958@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.