



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

WORSHIP FOR MAY 7, 2023
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Today is a communion Sunday. If you are joining us online, before the worship service, you are invited to assemble what you will eat and what you will 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.

“He is the Way. Follow him through the Land of Unlikeness; You will see rare beasts, and have unique adventures.”

W. H. Auden

PRELUDE

“Ave Verum Corpus”

W. A. Mozart

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rachel Burchett, Liturgist

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

* CALL TO WORSHIP

*HYMN 469 “Morning Has Broken”

**Morning has broken like the first morning
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird
Praise for the singing, Praise for the morning
Praise for them springing fresh from the Word!**

**Sweet the rain’s new fall, sunlit from heaven
Like the first dewfall on the first grass
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden
Sprung in completeness where God’s feet pass.**

**Mine is the sunlight, Mine is the morning
Born of the one light Eden saw play
Praise with elation, praise every morning
God’s recreation of the new day!**

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God, Giver of Life, Bearer of Pain, Source of Love: we thank you that
you are able to accept in us what we cannot even acknowledge;
you are able to name in us that of which we cannot bear to speak;
you are able to hold in your memory that which we have tried to forget;
you are able to hold out to us the glory that we cannot imagine.**

**Have mercy upon us this day. Reconcile us through your cross to all that we have rejected
in ourselves, that we may find no part of your creation to be alien or strange to us, and that
we ourselves may be made whole; through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*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 of gladness blend,
For Christ the Lord is risen, Our joy that has no end.**

ANTHEM “*Trois Chansons: I. Dieu! qu'il la fait bon regarder!*”
Claude Debussy arr. Michael Levin

SERVICE OF GIVING

Invitation

Offertory

*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 are dismissed to Children's Church)

SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 30:18-21

PSALM 25:1-10

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you;

**let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

Let none who look to you be put to shame;
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.

**Show me your ways, O Lord,
and teach me your paths.**

Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.

**Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**

Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

**Gracious and upright are you, O Lord;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

You guide the humble in doing right
and teach your way to the lowly.

**All your paths, O Lord, are love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON John 14:1-6

SERMON "Asking for Directions"

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

THANKSGIVING FOR BREAD AND CUP

**We give you thanks, O God, for this bread and cup set before us,
food and drink to nourish us in body and in spirit, signs of your life-giving love.
May they speak to us
of the everyday made holy,
of life made new,
of hope for your realm among us.**

We remember that on the night of his arrest...

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF BREAD AND CUP

(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

God of Compassion,

**when we bring the broken pieces of our lives and our world to this table,
you refresh us with bread broken and wine poured out.
We are united in the one body of Christ
as we re-member Jesus, risen for us today.
Strengthen our faith,
increase our love for one another,
and send us forth into the world in courage and peace,
to live as resurrection people,
following in the way of Jesus Christ
and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

***HYMN 108 “Christ Is Alive”**

**Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The Cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring. Love, drowned in death, shall never die.**

**Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine,
But saving, healing, here and now, and touching every place and time.**

**Not throned afar, remotely high, untouched, unmoved by human pains,
But daily, in the midst of life, Our Savior in the God-head reigns.**

**In every insult, rift, and war, where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more, and lives, where hope has died.**

**Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and every age,
til earth and sky and ocean ring, with joy, with justice, love, and praise.**

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE “Achieved Is the Glorious Work” Joseph Haydn

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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

- ❖ Fifth Sunday of Easter Worship 10:15 am
No Choir Rehearsal
 Christian Education 9:15 am
 Children's Church During Worship
 Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall After Worship

NEXT SUNDAY

- ❖ Sixth Sunday of Easter Worship 10:15 am
 Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am
 Christian Education 9:15 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.

WE ARE HAPPY TO WELCOME THE CLINTON STREET TROMBONE QUARTET TO OUR WORSHIP THIS MORNING. Kolbe Schnoebelen, Ty Waters, Ben Copeland, and Ryan Carter are students at the University of Iowa School of Music.

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

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!

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.

JOIN US FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION EVENTS FOR ALL AGES each Sunday morning at 9:15 a.m.

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.

THANKS! The Membership Board would like to thank all who helped make the April 30th New Member Brunch such a success. There were 90+ attendees, and 45 members recognized as joining the church in the past 15 years. Thanks to Vicki Thomae, John and Randee Fieselmann, Rebecca Weatherford, Chuck Dayton, John Johnson, Kevin Richards, Rick Ruppert, and others who helped set up extra tables at the last minute. Special thanks to Randee Fieselmann for her interesting presentation about our beautiful Tiffany Window.

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. 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.