



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

WORSHIP FOR JUNE 25, 2023  
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

“Commune with nature! Become reconciled with nature after your estrangement from it. Listen to nature in quietness, and you will find its heart. It will sound forth the glory of the divine ground. It will sigh with us in the bondage of tragedy. It will speak of the indestructible hope of salvation!”

Paul Tillich

PRELUDE

“Prelude in G Major”

Josef Renner

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tom Mittman, Liturgist

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (from the Song of Solomon)

Now the winter is past,  
the cold is over and gone.

**The flowers appear on the earth,  
the time of singing has come,**  
and the voice of the turtledove  
is heard in our land.

**The fig tree puts forth its figs,  
and the vines are in blossom.**

\*HYMN      “The Summer Days Are Come Again”      Samuel Longfellow

**The summer days are come again;  
Once more the glad earth yields  
Its golden wealth of ripening grain,  
And breath of clover fields,  
And deepening shade of summer woods,  
And glow of summer air,  
And winging thoughts, and happy moods  
Of love and joy and prayer.**

**The summer days are come again;  
The birds are on the wing;  
God’s praises, in their loving strain,  
Unconsciously they sing.  
We know God gives us all the good  
That does our cup o’erbrim;  
For summer joy in field and wood  
We lift our joyful hymn.**

\*OPENING PRAYER

**Holy God, we know the beauty of this day and we are grateful. We experience the warm stirring of summer and the fullness of the earth, and we are grateful. We share the love of family and friends and the community that is this church, and we are grateful.**

**Through the grace of Jesus Christ, we know the opportunity to bring new selves to this new day. As the sun brings light and warmth to this earth, make us signs of your abundant mercy. And remind us that we are also precious, not because we are good but because you have accepted us and called us to be your very own. Amen.**

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#292, vs. 3)

**O God from whose unfathomed law the year in beauty flows,  
yourself the splendid vision seen in crystal and in rose,  
The passing days with grace declare, and passing nights proclaim,  
In ever-changing words of light, the wonder of your name.**

DUET      “Die Ehre Gottes aus der Natur” (The Praise of God in Nature)

Ludwig van Beethoven  
Marie Von Behren and Andrew Knapp

Die Himmel rühmen des Ewigen Ehre;  
Ihr Schall pflanzt seinen Namen fort.  
Ihn rühmt der Erdkreis, ihn preisen die  
Meere;  
Vernimm, o Mensch, ihr göttlich Wort!

The heavens praise God with endless  
devotion.  
The echo spreads His name all around.  
The earth reechoes the praise of the ocean.  
Now hear, mankind, God's word profound.

Wer trägt der Himmel unzählbare Sterne?  
Wer führt die Sonn aus ihrem Zelt?  
Sie kommt und leuchtet und lacht uns von  
ferne  
Und läuft den Weg gleich als ein Held.

Who carries each shining heavenly star?  
Who guides the sun to shine each day?  
He comes and shines down on us from afar,  
Victoriously He makes his way

#### 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 "Andante" Friedrich Schneider

\*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 Genesis 1:20-31

#### PSALM 19

The heavens declare the glory of God,  
and the firmament shows forth the work of God's hands.

**One day tells its tale to another,  
and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

Although they have no words or language,  
and their voices are not heard,

**their sound has gone out into all lands,  
and their message to the ends of the world.**

The law of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul;  
the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.

**The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart;  
the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

The fear of the Lord is clean and endures forever;  
the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

**More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,  
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

By them also is your servant enlightened,  
and in keeping them there is great reward.

**Can people tell how often they offend?  
cleanse me from my secret faults.**

Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;  
let them not get dominion over me;

**then shall I be whole and sound,  
and innocent of a great offense.**

[Unison]

**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart  
be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON      Romans 8:18-25

SERMON      “Three Thoughts for a Summer Sunday”

\* HYMN 267      All Things Bright and Beautiful”

**Refrain:**

**All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful:  
The Lord God made them all.**

**Each little flower that opens,  
Each little bird that sings:  
God made their glowing colors,  
God made their tiny wings. (Refrain)**

**The purple-headed mountain,  
The river running by,  
The sunset, and the morning  
That brightens up the sky, (Refrain)**

**The cold wind in the winter,  
The pleasant summer sun,  
The ripe fruits in the garden,  
God made them every one. (Refrain)**

**God gave us eyes to see them,  
And lips that we might tell  
How great is God Almighty,  
Who has made all things well. (Refrain)**

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Maestoso” Johannes Diebold

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

❖	Sunday Worship	10:15 am
	Children’s Church	During Worship
	Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall	After Worship
	Church Picnic	4:00 p.m.

TUESDAY

❖	Church Council	7:00 p.m.
---	----------------	-----------

NEXT SUNDAY

❖	Jazz Worship Service	10:15 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.**

Everyone is invited to Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall after worship. Masks are welcome.

**OUR MISSION BOARD IS SPONSORING AN ALL-CHURCH FOOD DRIVE**

**THROUGHOUT THE MONTH OF JUNE.** The need for food at the CommUnity Food bank continues to increase. Members and friends may bring the needed items to the church and place them by the big peanut butter jar™ in Rockwood Hall. Items will be taken to the food bank during the week. Alternatively, you may take the food yourself to the back door of the CommUnity Food Bank in Pepperwood Mall. Monetary donations at CommUnity are also welcome.

The most-needed items include:

- Financial Donations
- Canned Fruit in Juice
- Peanut Butter
- Canned Meat
- Baby Diapers
- Baby Formula

- Rice and Pasta
- Hearty Soups and Stews
- Toilet Paper
- Laundry Detergent

Our last food drive effort was wildly successful, so let's do our part once again to help meet this need.

**ALL CHURCH PICNIC—TODAY, JUNE 25:** Summer is here and it's time for the Church Picnic. Bring your family, bring your friends and join us at SHELTER 12 IN LOWER CITY PARK from 4-7 p.m. Restrooms and parking are near the shelter. Our Membership Board will provide drinks and dessert. Please bring a dish to share and your own plates and tableware. You're welcome to bring games and play equipment, musical instruments, lawn chairs, and anything else that will make for a happy gathering. The Mission Board invites you to bring a contribution for the CommUnity food and diaper drive along with everything else. This will be the last chance to participate in June!

**OUR SUMMER JAZZ WORSHIP SERVICE WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, JULY 2,** the final day of the Iowa City Jazz Festival. We'll mark this occasion with a jazz worship service at 10:15 a.m. Our good friends in the Dick Watson quartet will provide the music. Join us—and bring a friend!

**HOPE LODGE:** Our next Hope Lodge dinner will be Monday, July 17. If you want to participate, see the sign-up sheet in Rockwood Hall. If you have questions see Sue Dayton or email [cdayton7@mchsi.com](mailto:cdayton7@mchsi.com)

**THE JOHNSON COUNTY INTERFAITH COALITION (JCIC) IS HAVING A FAITH IN ACTION FRIEND AND FUNDRAISER** on September 7, 5:30-8:00 at the Unitarian Universalist Society. Bea Hicks and Donna Hirst are co-chairs of the event. Our church is purchasing a table for 10. If you'd like to attend, please call the church office at 337-4301 or send a note to Jenn Harden at [uccicadmin@uccic.org](mailto:uccicadmin@uccic.org) and copy Donna at [donna-hirst@uiowa.edu](mailto:donna-hirst@uiowa.edu).

**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.  
information.