



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

WORSHIP FOR JUNE 4, 2023  
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

“For Christians, the Trinity is the primary symbol of a community that holds together by containing diversity within itself.”

Kathleen Norris

PRELUDE            “Fantasy”        Johann Pachelbel

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS            Derek Willard, Liturgist

CHORAL INTROIT

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

In the name of the Creator who made us,

**we celebrate the goodness of our lives.**

In the name of the Christ who came to set us free,

**we rejoice in our diversity of love and life.**  
In the name of the Spirit who sustains us,  
**we challenge ourselves to grow and to dream.**  
God, in your presence we gather,  
**be among us now!**

\*HYMN 470 (verses 1-3) "O Day of Radiant Gladness"  
**O day of radiant gladness, O day of joy and light,  
O balm of care and sadness, most beautiful, most bright;  
This day the high and lowly, through ages joined in tune,  
sing "Holy, holy, holy" to the great God Triune.**

**This day at the creation the light first had its birth;  
This day for our salvation Christ rose from depths of earth;  
This day our Lord, victorious the Spirit sent from heaven,  
And thus this day most glorious a triple light was given.**

**This day God's people meeting, the Holy Scripture hear;  
Christ's living presence greeting, through bread and wine made near.  
We journey on, believing, renewed with heavenly might,  
From grace more grace receiving on this blessed day of light.**

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer: you provide for every living thing.  
You give us our daily bread and enough to share with others.  
You offer us the bread of life.  
We confess that we misuse your good gifts and our gratitude is slight.  
Out of our desire for more, we have pushed the earth to its limits.  
Our hungry hearts are never satisfied.  
Forgive us.  
Help us to recover our place in the midst of creation and to discover what will sustain us in  
respecting this world. Amen.**

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#470, vs. 4)

**That light our hope sustaining, upon the pilgrim way,  
at length our rest attaining, our endless Sabbath day.  
We sing to you our praises, our Hope, our Joy, our Sun:  
the church its voice upraises to you blessed Three in One.**

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

SERVICE OF GIVING

Invitation

Offertory "Lento" Fritz Lubrich

\*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 II Corinthians 13:5-13

PSALM 8

O Lord our Lord,

how exalted is your name in all the world!

**Out of the mouths of infants and children  
your majesty is praised above the heavens.**

you have set up a stronghold against your adversaries,  
to quell the enemy and the avenger.

**When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,**

what are human beings that you should be mindful of them?  
mortals that you should seek them out?

**You have made them but little lower than the angels;  
you adorn them with glory and honor;**

you give them mastery over the works of your hands;  
you put all things under their feet:

**All sheep and oxen,  
even the wild beasts of the field,**

the birds of the air, the fish of the sea,  
and whatsoever walks in the paths of the sea.

**O Lord our Lord,  
how exalted is your name in all the world!**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 28:16-20

SERMON "The Blessing after the Testing"

THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

HYMN 515 "Now, to Your Table Spread"

**Now to your table spread  
We come, each one in faith  
That You alone provide the words of life and death:**

**In wine and bread,  
On promised food  
We find Your loving heart, O God.**

**Hands of the world stretch out  
Your mystery to touch  
In longing to believe a truth beyond our reach,  
To sing in joy,  
To cry in grief,  
To know Your meaning for our life.**

**Here is our common wealth  
In sharing what is good,  
As though all humankind around one table stood,  
This bread to break,  
This wine to taste:  
One people in the name of Christ.**

#### 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 360 “Hope of the World”**

**Hope of the world, thou Christ of great compassion,  
speak to our fearful hearts by conflict rent.  
Save us, thy people, from consuming passion,  
who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.**

**Hope of the world, God's gift from highest heaven,  
bringing to hungry souls the bread of life,  
still let thy Spirit unto us be given  
to heal earth's wounds and end her bitter strife.**

**Hope of the world, afoot on dusty highways,  
showing to wandering souls the path of light;  
walk thou beside us, lest the tempting byways  
lure us away from thee to endless night.**

**Hope of the world, who by thy cross didst save us  
from death and dark despair, from sin and guilt;  
we render back the love thy mercy gave us;  
take thou our lives, and use them as thou wilt.**

**Hope of the world, O Christ o'er death victorious,  
who by this sign didst conquer grief and pain,  
we would be faithful to thy gospel glorious:  
Thou art our Lord! Thou dost forever reign!**

**\*BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE**

**POSTLUDE “Toccatà in G Major”                      Wilhelm Hieronymus Pachelbel**

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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
Children’s Choir Director	Majesty Constable
Office Manager	Jenn Harden

#### TODAY

❖	Sunday Worship	10:15 am
	Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am
	Children’s Church	During Worship
	Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall	After Worship

#### TUESDAY

❖	Mission Board Meeting	7:00 pm
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#### NEXT SUNDAY

❖	Sunday Worship	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.

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE RECOGNITION:** Last Sunday we recognized Ben Hoefler, who graduated from West High yesterday. Ben will attend The University of Iowa starting in August and plans to study engineering. **There is still the opportunity to share your thoughts and good wishes with Ben by writing them in the book in Rockwood Hall.** May and June bring other graduations as well. If you or someone you know is graduating from college, please let the church office know so that we can include this information in the church newsletter.

**THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO GAVE TO THE STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING LAST SUNDAY.** We received over \$800 for this offering. The “Strengthen the Church” offering supports 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. If you still want to give to this offering, please write “Strengthen the Church” on the memo line of your check

**JUNE 4—STREETS CLOSED DURING IOWA ARTS FESTIVAL:** Spring and summer bring great festivals to Iowa City—and close off some of the streets! Sunday, June 4, is the final day of the Iowa Arts Festival. Clinton, Dubuque, and Linn Streets will be closed between College and Jefferson Streets. Access to the church will be available from Jefferson Street and from Clinton Street coming from the north. Join us for worship at 10:15 a.m., but plan on a slightly longer walk.

**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.

**PRIDE 2023 Vacation Bible School at the Congregational UCC is cancelled.** But all is not lost! All the material that would have been covered in this setting will be shared during Children's Church at worship this summer.

**FOR PENTECOST, HOPE SPRAGG CREATED A SPECIAL INSTALLATION** of the Holy Spirit using the Storyteller's Tree that was first presented to our congregation at our Christmas Pageant. The tree is now on display in Rockwood Hall.

**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—SUNDAY, 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.

**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.