



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

WORSHIP FOR JULY 2, 2023
FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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.

“If you play only the white notes on a piano you get only sharps; if only the black keys you get flats; but if you play the two together you get harmony and beautiful music.”

James Emman Kwegyir Aggrey (1921)

PRELUDE “The Old Rugged Cross”

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Bea Hicks, Liturgist

CALL TO WORSHIP

Ascribe to the Sovereign God glory and strength.

Worship God in holy splendor.

May God give strength to the people.

May God bless the people with strength.

***HYMN 563 “Lift Every Voice and Sing” James Weldon Johnson, J. Rosamond Johnson**

**Lift every voice and sing
'Til earth and heaven ring
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the listening skies
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun
Let us march on 'til victory is won**

**Stony the road we trod
Bitter the chastening rod
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died
Yet with a steady beat
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our parents sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered
Out from the gloomy past
'Til now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast**

**God of our weary years
God of our silent tears
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way
Thou who has by Thy might
Led us into the light
Keep us forever in the path, we pray
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee
Shadowed beneath Thy hand
May we forever stand
True to our God
True to our native land**

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God our Creator: you led people to this land, and out of conflict, created in us a love of peace and liberty. We have failed you by neglecting rights and restricting freedoms. Forgive pride that overlooks national wrong, or justifies injustice. Forgive divisions caused by prejudice or greed. Have mercy, God, on the heart of this land. Make us compassionate, fair, and helpful to each other. Raise up in us a right patriotism, that sees and seeks this nation's good; through Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#564, vs. 2 & 3)

**O beautiful for pilgrim feet, Whose stern impassioned stress
A thoroughfare of freedom beat Across the wilderness!
America! America! God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control, Thy liberty in law!**

**O beautiful for heroes proved In liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved, And mercy more than life!
America! America! May God thy gold refine
Till all success be nobleness And every gain divine!**

ANTHEM "Black and White"

SERVICE OF GIVING

Invitation

Offertory "Go Down, Moses"

*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 58:6-12

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 Colossians 3:12-14

SERMON “The Harmonies of Liberty”

THE LORD’S SUPPER

INVITATION

HYMN 513 “Let Us Break Bread Together”

Let us break bread together on our knees; (on our knees;)

Let us break bread together on our knees. (on our knees.)

When I fall on my knees,

With my face to the rising sun,

O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me.)

Let us drink wine together on our knees; (on our knees;)

Let us drink wine together on our knees. (on our knees.)

When I fall on my knees,

With my face to the rising sun,

O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me.)

Let us praise God together on our knees; (on our knees;)

Let us praise God together on our knees. (on our knees.)

When I fall on my knees,

With my face to the rising sun,

O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me.)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

REMEMBERING AND GIVING THANKS

Let us join together in prayer:

Pour out your Spirit

on us and on these gifts.

Make Christ known to us in the breaking of this bread, and the sharing of this cup.

As we eat this bread, we remember that many are hungry.

As we share the cup together, we remember that many are thirsty.

May the day come soon when there may be food and water for all.

May the day come soon when justice and peace take the place of violence.

May the day come soon when your freedom may be known by all of creation.

Make us again into your body, loving, serving, and caring for the world

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

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND 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

We give you thanks, O God, because in your own free gift of love you have reached out to us. You have refreshed us at your table, touched our deepest needs, and called us to a life shared in memory and hope. Send us forth with courage and joy in the name of Jesus Christ, that we, too, may become bread and peace for one another and for the world. Amen.

*HYMN 440 "In Christ There Is No East or West"

**In Christ there is no east or west,
In him no south or north;
But one great fellowship of love
Throughout the whole wide earth.**

**In Christ shall true hearts everywhere
Their high communion find;
God's service is the golden cord,
Close-binding humankind.**

**Join hands, disciples of the faith,
Whate'er your race may be.
All children of the living God
Are surely kin to me.**

**In Christ now meet both east and west,
In Christ meet south and north;
All Christly souls are one in him
Throughout the whole wide earth.**

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE "O Beautiful for Spacious Skies"

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 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

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|---|----------------------|----------------|
| ❖ | Jazz Worship Service | 10:15 am |
| | Children's Church | During Worship |

Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall After Worship

TUESDAY

❖ Church Office Closed

NEXT SUNDAY

❖ 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.

FOR OUR SUMMER JAZZ WORSHIP SERVICE THIS MORNING we welcome some old friends: Dick Watson, piano, Gary Palmer, bass, Craig Wood, drums, and Lynne Hart, saxophone. This jazz worship service was made possible by a gift from Chuck Connerly and Martha Ann Crawford

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

BE A PART OF WELCOMING STUDENTS IN AUGUST: When the UI Fall Semester begins in late August, Congregational UCC will once again welcome the new and returning students. The exact dates and details are still in the works, but this will be a new and reimagined event designed to let students know who we are, what we value, and how they might find a spiritual home here while studying at the University. More information will be available in late July and early August. In the meantime, if you have suggestions or would like to help with the planning, please talk with Martha Ann Crawford, Allan Hogue, or Bill Lovin.

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 and copy Donna at 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. 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.
information.