



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

WORSHIP FOR AUGUST 6, 2023
TENTH 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 something as simple as a cracker or rice cake and water for use in our worship.

Breath of Christ's loving, Holy Spirit, within each person you sow faith, faith which can only be a very simple trust, so simple that everyone can receive it. Known or unknown, in our darkness you kindle a fire which never dies away. Amen.

Brother Roger of Taizé

PRELUDE "Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven" Michael Burkhardt

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Marsh Lowe, Liturgist

*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 103)

Praise the Sovereign God;
let all that is within us praise God's holy name.

**Praise the Sovereign God;
let us remember all that God has done.**

God forgives all our sin
and heals all our infirmities.

**God fills life with good things
so that our strength is renewed like the eagle's.**

***HYMN 479 "Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven"**

**Praise, my soul, the God of heaven;
glad of heart your carols raise;
rescued, healed, restored, forgiven
who, like me, should sing God's praise?
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise the Maker all your days!**

**Praise God for the grace and favor
shown our forebears in distress;
God is still the same forever,
Slow to chide and swift to bless.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Sing our Maker's faithfulness!**

**Like a loving parent caring,
God knows well our feeble frame;
gladly all our burdens bearing,
still to countless years the same.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
All within me, praise God's name!**

**Angels, teach us adoration,
you behold God face to face;
sun and moon and all creation,
dwellers all in time and space.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Praise with us the God of grace!**

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Merciful God, whose care never ceases, we come to you as we are. We are tired from trying to do more than we can manage. We are anxious about problems which go unresolved. We are worried about events beyond our control. We do not easily let go.

For mistakes we cannot redeem, for tasks left undone, for uncertain goals, we need your forgiveness and ask for your understanding. For recovery of strength and enthusiasm, we pray for your Spirit. For fullness of life, generous hearts, and contented souls, we pray to be followers of Christ Jesus. In your mercy, restore us and lead us. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#479)**

**Frail as summer's flower we flourish
Blows the wind, and it is gone.**

**But, while mortals rise and perish,
God's compassion still lives on.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise the high eternal One!**

QUARTET "Set Me as A Seal" Rene Clausen
Rachel Burchett, Sarah Fairfield and Marie Von Behren, and Rebecca Weatherford

COMMUNION SUNDAY—NO PRAYERS

SERVICE OF GIVING

Invitation

Offertory "Meditation" Flor Peeters

*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

COMMUNION SUNDAY—NO CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(Children are dismissed to Children's Church)

SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 44:6-8

PSALM 86:11-17

Teach me your way, O Lord,
and I will walk in your truth;
knit my heart to you that I may fear your name.

**I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart,
and glorify your name forevermore.**

For great is your love toward me;
you have delivered me from the nethermost pit.

**The arrogant rise up against me, O God,
and a violent mob seeks my life;
they have not set you before their eyes.**

But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.

**Turn to me and have mercy upon me;
give your strength to your servant;
and save the child of your handmaid.**

[Unison]

**Show me a sign of your favor,
so that those who hate me may see it and be ashamed;
because you, O Lord, have helped me and comforted me.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 13:24-30

SERMON “All Together Now”

THE LORD’S SUPPER

INVITATION

HYMN 517 “We Come as Guests Invited”

**We come as guests invited
when Jesus bids us dine,
his friends on earth united
to share the bread and wine;
the bread of life is broken;
the wine is freely poured
for us, in solemn token
of Christ our dying Lord.**

**We eat and drink, receiving
from Christ the grace we need,
and in our hearts believing
on him by faith we feed;
with wonder and thanksgiving
for love that knows no end,
we find in Jesus living
our ever-present friend.**

**One bread is ours for sharing,
one single fruitful vine,
our fellowship declaring
renewed in bread and wine:
renewed, sustained, and given
by token, sign, and word,
the pledge and seal of heaven,
the love of Christ our Lord.**

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

Blessed be God, who has raised us and shaped us from the dust.

Blessed be God, who brought us to this table.

Blessed be God, who has given us the bread of life.

Blessed be God, who has fed us with the food of love.

Our hands and our hearts were empty.

God has filled us with hope.

Let us go out in the hope of the Gospel.

We go in the name of Christ. Amen.

*HYMN 261 "God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us"

**God of compassion, in mercy befriend us,
giver of grace for our needs all-availing.
Wisdom and strength for each day do you send us,
patience untiring and courage unfailing.**

**Wandering and lost, you have sought us and found us,
stilled our rude hearts with your word of consoling.
Wrap now your peace, like a mantle, around us,
guarding our thoughts and our passions controlling.**

**How shall we stray, with your hand to direct us,
you who the stars in their courses are guiding?
What shall we fear, with your power to protect us,
we who abide in your greatness confiding?**

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven"

Timothy Flynn

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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

❖	Worship Service	10:15 am
	Children’s Church	During Worship
	Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall	After Worship

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.

BILL LOVIN WILL BE ON VACATION THIS COMING WEEK, THROUGH AUGUST 13.

A MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR MARGE HOPPIN will be held in the sanctuary at 3:30 on Tuesday, August 15. A visitation time will begin at 2:30 and a reception in Rockwood Hall will follow the service. Marge died on Monday, July 17.

BE A PART OF WELCOMING STUDENTS: When the UI Fall Semester begins later this month, Congregational UCC will once again welcome the new and returning students. On August 20, 21, & 22, we will have events 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. If you would like to help with this, please talk with Martha Ann Crawford, Allan Hogue, Ben Copeland or Bill Lovin.

FERN WEIR WILL TURN 99 ON AUGUST 15. If you would like to send her a card, her address is 2137 Oakdale Ridge, Coralville, IA 52241.

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. Our church has purchased a table for 10 and we've already filled it! The Mission Board is discussing getting a 2nd table. Last year 20 Unitarians attended the event. **We can do better than 10.** If you are interested in supporting JCIC by attending the Sept. 7 event, send a note to donna-hirst@uiowa.edu and/or Jenn at uccicadmin@uccic.org. If you can't attend, but would like to make a donation: Pay by check to: Johnson County Interfaith Coalition, Bea Hicks, Treasurer, PO Box 966, Iowa City, IA 52240. Put "2023 Faith in Action" in the Memo Line. Or for credit card or PayPal: <https://organizeiowa.com/donate/>.

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.