



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

WORSHIP FOR SEPTEMBER 10, 2023  
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

“Each morning we must hold out the chalice of our being to receive, to carry, and to give back.”  
Dag Hammarskjöld

PRELUDE                    “Meditation”                    L. Dean Bye

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS                    Rachel Burchett, Liturgist

CHORAL INTROIT

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Beside the flowing river and beneath the wide sky,  
**we gather to praise God who sustains all living things.**

At this very corner, we come together  
**bringing all that we are to worship God.**

**\*HYMN 272           “God of the Sparrow”**

**God of the sparrow  
God of the whale  
God of the swirling stars  
How does the creature say Awe  
How does the creature say Praise**

**God of the earthquake  
God of the storm  
God of the trumpet blast  
How does the creature cry Woe  
How does the creature cry Save**

**God of the rainbow  
God of the cross  
God of the empty grave  
How does the creature say Grace  
How does the creature say Thanks**

**God of the hungry  
God of the sick  
God of the prodigal  
How does the creature say Care  
How does the creature say Life**

**God of the neighbor  
God of the foe  
God of the pruning hook  
How does the creature say Love  
How does the creature say Peace**

**God of the ages  
God near at hand  
God of the loving heart  
How do your children say Joy  
How do your children say Home**

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

**We give you thanks, O God, for bringing us together in community.  
We are grateful for the people who gather with us  
and magnify your presence.**

**Hear the sighs of your people who bring  
their weariness and distress, their hopes and dreams.  
Open a pathway forward.**

**Send us your Spirit.  
Renew our imagination and strength  
to follow in your wonderful and unexpected ways.**

**Let the energy of this time  
stream into the world  
as you send us out to be signs of your love. Amen.**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (483, vs. 3)**

**The Lord is never far away,  
But through all grief distressing,  
An ever present help and stay,  
Our peace, our joy, and blessing;  
As with a mother's tender hand,  
God gently leads the chosen band:  
To God all praise and glory!**

**ANTHEM      "Awake, Awake, to Love and Work"      Paul Bauman**

**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.**

Choral Response

**SERVICE OF GIVING**

Invitation

Offertory      "Invocation"      Alan Ridout

\*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

DEDICATION OF THOSE WHO WORK WITH CHILDREN IN THE CONGREGATION

**O God, who teaches us to live  
and guides us on our way,  
For all the teachers in our midst,  
we give you thanks and praise.**

**For wisdom, skills, and confidence  
where wonder leads to faith  
For those who ask and those who hear,  
we give you thanks and praise.**

(At this time, children are dismissed to attend Children's Church.)

SCRIPTURE LESSON      Jeremiah 31:10-12

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      Mark 9:14-29

SERMON      "What's Happening on This Corner?"

\*HYMN (insert)      "We Are Your People" (vs. 1-4, 6)

**We are your people,  
Spirit of grace,  
    you dare to make us  
    to all our neighbors  
Christ's living voice, hands and face.**

**Joined in community,  
treasured and fed,**

**may we discover  
gifts in each other,  
willing to lead and be led.**

**Rich in diversity,  
help us to live  
closer than neighbors,  
open to strangers,  
able to clash and forgive.**

**Glad of tradition,  
help us to see  
in all life's changing  
where you are leading,  
where our best efforts should be.**

**Spirit, unite us;  
make us, by grace,  
willing and ready,  
Christ's living body,  
loving the whole human race.**

\*BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE            “Fanfare”            L. Dean Bye

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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**

❖	Church School Breakfast	9:00 am
	Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am
	Christian Education	9:15 am

Worship Service	10:15 am
Children's Church	During Worship
Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall	After Worship
Choir Roundup	After Worship
Youth Group @ 1 <sup>st</sup> Presbyterian	3-4:30 pm

#### WEDNESDAY

- ❖ New Member Class 7:00 p.m.

#### NEXT SUNDAY

- ❖ Church School Breakfast 9:00 am
- Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am
- Christian Education 9:15 am
- Worship Service 10:15 am
- Children's Church During Worship
- Bill Crouch Celebration 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.

#### **THE NEW FURNACES AND AIR CONDITIONERS HAVE BEEN INSTALLED.**

**HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP:** We received a major gift from a family in the congregation to help pay for the new units. Many other members would like to be a part of funding this project. Your gifts to the HVAC Fund will mean that we will need to use less of our reserves for this project. Thanks for your generous giving.

#### **BILL CROUCH HAS BEEN THE ORGANIST AT CONGREGATIONAL UCC FOR**

**TWENTY YEARS.** Please join us as we celebrate together during a special coffee hour after worship on Sunday, September 17.

**A NEW MEMBER CLASS** will be held on Wednesday, September 13 & 20. If you are interested in joining Congregational UCC or would like more information about us, we invite you to attend these sessions. For more information, please talk with Bill Lovin or call the church office, 337-4301.

**TIME TO JOIN THE CHOIR**—Do you enjoy singing? Our volunteer choir rehearses each Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. sings during the 10:15 worship service. This year's "Choir Round-up" will take place after worship this morning, so there's still time to get in on the ground floor. Whether you're a long-time member or the new kid on the block, **WE WANT YOU!** The Congregational UCC choir is a wonderful group of people who work hard at making great music; you'll be sure to enjoy this experience. Questions? Please get in touch with our choir director Dr. Chris Nakielski at [cnakielski@cornellcollege.edu](mailto:cnakielski@cornellcollege.edu).

**ADULT EDUCATION:** On September 17 & 24, Allan and Loralyn Hogue will lead a discussion about the Iona Community, the ecumenical Christian community in Scotland that they visited earlier this year. Join us in Rockwood Hall at 3:49:15 a.m.

**THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO GAVE TO THE SPECIAL OFFERING FOR MAUI WILDFIRE RELIEF EFFORTS LAST SUNDAY.** We have received \$1650 so far. There is still time to give. Please put “Maui Wildfire Relief” on the memo line of your check or give online.

**TEE OFFERING Will Be Received on September 24:** Our annual offering to support the Theological Education by Extension College in South Africa (TEE Offering) will be received during worship on Sunday, September 24. This offering has been a tradition in our congregation for several decades. It was initially started when the brother of our then minister, the Rev. Ed Heininger, worked for TEE in South Africa. TEE is a private, nonprofit, distance learning institution serving five south African countries. The mission of the college is to equip men and women for Christian ministry. Students come from 28 denominations across southern Africa including the UCC of South Africa. For more information about this amazing program, please visit their website at [www.tee.co.za](http://www.tee.co.za). Please plan to give generously—our support makes a difference.

**WE HAVE SEVERAL PARENTS TRYING TO DO IT ALL!** We also have several retired folks looking for a meaningful connection! How can you help?

Sunday Morning Rush: We need a few good chefs that would love to fix a very simple, lite breakfast for ONE (1) Sunday morning. You could have the use of the kitchen for a brief time to serve (not prepare) a warm breakfast from 9:00 to 9:15. Morning Glory Muffins? Breakfast Pizza? Egg casserole? Sausage rolls? Recipes provided. Fix it at home, bring it in hot!

Drivers: Are you available occasionally to give a child a ride to school, a lesson, or Sunday School?

Tutors: Do you have an afternoon to supervise reading, math, or homework?

Mother’s Helper: Do you have an hour or two to watch a child (with the parent present) while the parent catches up on tasks like paperwork or weeding/gardening.

See: Rev. Ann Molsberry

**OUR NEXT HOPE LODGE DINNER WILL BE MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25.** Please see the sign-up sheet posted in Rockwood Hall. Contact Sue Dayton [cdayton7@mchsi.com](mailto:cdayton7@mchsi.com) with questions.

**THE SAFETY COMMITTEE HAS PLACED A NEW FIRST AID BOX IN THE KITCHEN.** It is on the counter on the far west wall.

**BOB ASHMAN WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO HEAR FROM FRIENDS AT CONGREGATIONAL UCC.** You can write to him at 51 S. Main St., Mansfield, MA 02048. You can call him at 319-512-6401 (although he generally does not check for voice mail messages).

**SHELTER HOUSE ANNUAL BBQ BASH, SEPTEMBER 22:** Shelter House is gearing up for their 2023 BBQ Bash! They invite you, your family, and all of your friends to join them for another year of delicious food, great music, yard games, and a genuinely good time in support of Shelter House's life-saving work in our community. They are thrilled to continue their partnership with Pop's BBQ, whose incredibly talented pitmasters will be cooking up something special just for Shelter House supporters. Homebrewed will be back for 2023 to perform their

foot-stomping rockabilly music. Grab a ticket, load your plate, and enjoy refreshing drinks from Big Grove Brewery at the Johnson County Fairgrounds on Friday, September 22 from 5:00-7:00 pm. You don't want to miss it.

Tickets are on sale now at [www.shelterhouseiowa.org/bbq-bash/](http://www.shelterhouseiowa.org/bbq-bash/) (\$50 for adults and \$15 for youth).

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS:** Outerwear coat distribution is October 8-15. Volunteers are needed each day for preparation and distribution. You are invited to sign up for multiple shifts during the distribution period. Here's the link—sign up today! <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0B49A9AE2FA20-warm4>

**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.