



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

WORSHIP FOR SEPTEMBER 24, 2023
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

“We crack open the pages of the Bible at our peril.”
Annie Dillard

PRELUDE “Romance” William Lloyd Webber

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Ginny Clemons, Liturgist

CHORAL INTROIT

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Out of the fullness of the lives God has given us
let us bring God our worship and praise.

**With thanks we offer to God the creativity of our minds,
the warmth of our hearts, and the joy of our spirits.**

We love because God has first loved us,
freeing us from the power of sin and death.

**With glad hearts let us join together in singing praise to God
who creates, redeems and sustains us.**

* HYMN 229 “From All That Dwell Below the Skies”

**From all that dwell below the skies
Let the Creator’s praise arise:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Let the Redeemer’s name be sung
Through every land, by every tongue.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**In every land begin the song,
To every land the strains belong:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
In cheerful sounds all voices raise
And fill the world with joyful praise.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Eternal are Thy mercies, Lord;
Eternal truth attends Thy Word:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore,
Till suns rise and set no more.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*OPENING PRAYER

**Creating, Redeeming, and Sustaining God, you gather us in all our diversity and difference
and hold us together as one in Christ. We give you thanks that
when we cannot let go of past wrongs, your grace comes to us new each day;
when we are weary and worried, your Spirit revives us;
when we are in despair about our world or our lives, you renew our hope and point
us toward tomorrow.**

**Speak gently to us now in our trouble and distraction that we might be still and know that
you are God. Keep us aware of your presence with us as we live in love and joy through the
days ahead. Amen.**

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#229)

**Let all things their Creator bless,
And worship God in humbleness:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
O praise the One who gives us birth,
Redeeming, giving life its worth.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

ANTHEM “The Call” Z. Randall Stroope

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Introductions: Diane Dahl-McCoy, Carson Fixmer, Tim Fixmer, Bill Lohss, David McCartney, Jamie McCoy, Curt Svalstad, Linda Svalstad,

Owning the Covenant

We covenant with one another to seek and respond to the Word and will of God. We purpose to walk together in the ways of Jesus Christ, made known and to be made known to us. We hold it to be the mission of the Church to witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ in all the world, while worshipping God, and striving for truth, justice, and peace. As did our forebears, we depend on the Holy Spirit to lead and empower us. We pray for the coming of the reign of God, and we look with faith toward the triumph of righteousness and eternal life.

Welcome of the Congregation

We welcome you with joy into the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hope and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God’s knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

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 “Andante mosso” Colin Mawby

*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

MESSAGE FROM THE CHILDREN

“I’ve Got the Joy” Children’s Choir, Majesty Constable, Director
(At this time, children are dismissed to attend Children's Church.)

SCRIPTURE LESSON

PSALM 119:33-40

Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes,
and I shall keep it to the end.

**Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law;
I shall keep it with all my heart.**

Make me go in the path of your commandments,
for that is my desire.

**Incline my heart to your decrees
and not to unjust gain.**

Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless;
give me life in your ways.

**Fulfill your promise to your servant,
which you make to those who fear you.**

Turn away the reproach which I dread,
because your judgments are good.

**Behold, I long for your commandments;
in your righteousness preserve my life.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

SERMON "What's Happening on This Corner?"
Part 3: Living with the Dangerous Bible

*HYMN 434 "Today We Are All Called to Be Disciples"

**Today we all are called to be
disciples of the Lord,
to help to set the captive free,
make plowshare out of sword,
to feed the hungry, quench their thirst,
make love and peace our fast,
to serve the poor and homeless first,
our ease and comfort last.**

**God made the world and at its birth
ordained our human race
to live as stewards of the earth,
responding to God's grace.
But we are vain and sadly proud;
we sow not peace but strife.
Our discord spreads a deadly cloud
that threatens all of life.**

**Pray justice may come rolling down
as in a mighty stream,
with righteousness in field and town
to cleanse us and redeem.**

**For God is longing to restore
an earth where conflicts cease,
a world that was created for
a harmony of peace.**

**May we in service to our God
act out the living word,
and walk the road the saints have trod
till all have seen and heard.
As stewards of the earth may we
give thanks in one accord
to God who calls us all to be
disciples of the Lord.**

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE “Fanfare” Arthur Bliss

“Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples,” Words - ©1985, 1989 Presbyterian Publishing/Westminster John Knox/Geneva Press. Contributors: H. Kenn Carmichael. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-715458. All rights reserved.

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

TUESDAY

❖	Church Council	7:00 pm
---	----------------	---------

NEXT SUNDAY

❖	Church School Breakfast	9:00 am
	Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am
	Christian Education	9:15 am
	Worship Service	10:15 am

World Communion Sunday
Children's Church

During 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.

THERE'S STILL 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. Whether you're a long-time member or the new kid on the block, **YOU'RE WELCOME TO JOIN!** 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.

ADULT EDUCATION: Next Sunday, October 1, we'll watch and discuss the documentary, "Jesus' Female Disciples." Join us in Rockwood Hall at 9:15 a.m.

TEE OFFERING Will Be Received This Morning: Our annual offering to support the Theological Education by Extension College in South Africa (TEE Offering) will be received during worship today. 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. Please plan to give generously—our support makes a difference.

FUN UI HOMECOMING VOLUNTEER/BAKING OPPORTUNITY! The Mission Board will sell cookies and warm drinks during the U of I Homecoming Parade Friday, October 6. We are asking for donations of one dozen homemade cookies or bars that are \$1 (larger) size. Items do not need to be individually wrapped but please bring a display card labeling what type and if they contain peanuts or tree nuts. Baked goods may be dropped off in the kitchen between 9-1 or 5-5:45 the day of Homecoming. We also need volunteers to sell the cookies and drinks. There will be a sign-up sheet in Rockwood Hall or you can sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0944ACA82FA7FDC16-cookies#/>

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 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).

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. 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.