



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

WORSHIP FOR OCTOBER 15, 2023  
TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

“As God bestows his benefits upon us, let us beware that we acknowledge it towards him by doing good to our neighbors whom he offers to us, so as we neither exempt ourselves from their want, nor seclude them from our abundance, but gently make them partakers with us, as folk that are linked together in an inseparable bond.”

John Calvin

PRELUDE “My Shepherd Will Supply My Need” Dale Wood

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Marsh Lowe, Liturgist

CHORAL INTROIT

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Sisters and brothers—Arise.  
Arise and lift your hearts  
Arise and lift your eyes  
Arise and lift your voices.

**The living God,  
the living, moving Spirit of God  
has called us together—  
in witness and in celebration.**

Reach out towards each other,  
for our God reaches out towards us!  
Let us worship God!

\*HYMN 207                    “How Lovely, Lord”

**How lovely, Lord, how lovely  
is your abiding place;  
my soul is longing, fainting,  
to feast upon your grace.  
The sparrow finds a shelter,  
a place to build her nest,  
and so your temple calls us  
with in its walls to rest.**

**In your blest courts to worship,  
O God, a single day  
is better than a thousand  
if I from you should stray.  
I’d rather keep the entrance  
and claim you as my Lord  
than revel in the riches  
the ways of sin afford.**

**A sun and shield forever  
are you, O Lord Most High;  
you shower us with blessings;  
no good will you deny.  
The saints, your grace receiving,  
from strength to strength shall go,  
and from their life shall rivers  
of blessing overflow.**

\*OPENING PRAYER

**God of love and mercy, in the quiet peace of morning we gather in this place to sing our praise to you and to be strengthened by your gentle Spirit. We offer thanks for the gift of rest and renewal. We pray that through our worship we may be recreated in your likeness once more. Let your Spirit enter our lives, that the shadows of our souls may be pierced by the brilliance of your Light. Let our thoughts be transformed into expressions of beauty, reflecting your uncompromising love; through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#602, vs. 1)

**Blest be the God of Israel, Who comes to set us free;  
Who visits and redeems us, Who grants us liberty.  
The prophets spoke of mercy, Of freedom and release;  
God shall fulfill that promise And bring the people peace.**

ANTHEM                    “My Shepherd Will Supply My Need”                    arr. Mack Wilberg

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            “Canon”            Josef Renner

\*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’S MESSAGE

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

SCRIPTURE LESSON            Isaiah 1:10-18

PSALM 50:1-15, 23

The Lord, the God of gods, has spoken  
and has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

**Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty,  
God shines forth in glory.**

Our God will come and will not keep silence;  
before God there is a consuming flame,

and round about a raging storm.

**God calls the heavens and the earth from above  
to witness the judgment of the chosen people.**

“Gather before me my loyal followers,  
those who have made a covenant with me  
and sealed it with sacrifice.”

**Let the heavens declare the rightness of God's cause;  
for it is God who is judge.**

“I do not accuse you because of your sacrifices;  
your offerings are always before me.

**I will take no bull-calf from your stalls,  
nor he-goats out of your pens;**  
for all the beasts of the forest are mine,  
the herds in their thousands upon the hills.

**I know every bird in the sky,  
and the creatures of the fields are in my sight.**

If I were hungry, I would not tell you,  
for the whole world is mine and all that is in it.

**Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving  
and make good your vows to the Most High.**

Call upon me in the day of trouble;  
I will deliver you, and you shall honor me.

**Whoever offers me the sacrifice of thanksgiving honors me;  
to those who keep in my way will I show the salvation of God.”**

SCRIPTURE LESSON      II Thessalonians 2:13-17

SERMON      “Learning to Live Generously”

\* HYMN 339      “Be Thou My Vision”  
**Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art--  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.**

**Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,  
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:  
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,  
Great God of heaven, my treasure Thou art.**

**Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;  
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

\*BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE “Concluding Voluntary” Myles B. Foster

Cover Graphic—designed by Congregational UCC member, Robyn Hepker, for this year’s stewardship theme, “Living Generously.”

“How Lovely, Lord, How Lovely” - Hal H. Hopson, Arlo D. Duba, Words and Music - ©1986, 1990, Hope Publishing Company. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-715458. All rights reserved.

Opening Prayer by James F.D. Martin. Reprinted by permission of the publisher from *Touch Holiness*, ed. Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi, Copyright © 1990 The Pilgrim Press.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: “Song of Zechariah,” Michael Perry, Words - ©1973 The Jubilate Group. 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

❖	Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am
	Adult Education	9:15 am
	Worship Service	10:15 am
	Children’s Church	During Worship

MONDAY

❖	Finance Committee	10:00 am
---	-------------------	----------

TUESDAY

❖	Membership Board	5:30 pm
	Deacons	6:00 pm
	Trustees	7:00 pm
	Stewardship Board (Zoom)	7:00 pm

THURSDAY

❖	Women’s Lunch (Tuscan Moon)	11:45 am
---	-----------------------------	----------

SATURDAY

❖	Men’s Breakfast (Waterfront HyVee)	8:00 am
---	------------------------------------	---------

### 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
	Youth Group	4:00 pm

### **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.

**PLEASE HELP WITH PARKING IN THE CHURCH LOT:** A number of people currently have mobility issues and need to park in our small parking lot off of Jefferson St. If you are able, please park elsewhere so that the marked and unmarked spaces can be used by those who need them. Thanks.

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THE IMPACT OF IOWA'S NEW LAWS ON TRANS YOUNG PEOPLE,** you are welcome to attend a presentation at Oaknoll on Wednesday, October 25, at 1:30 p.m. "Protecting Iowa's Transgender Youth" will be presented by Connie Ryan, longtime executive director of the Interfaith Alliance of Iowa and Rev. Meg Wagner who serves directly under the Episcopal bishop of Iowa. For specific details contact Linda Muston, Mission Board member, via email at [lkhmust60@gmail.com](mailto:lkhmust60@gmail.com) or by phone or text at 319-400-0969.

**RUN FOR THE SCHOOLS—SUNDAY OCTOBER 29:** One of the joys of in-person worship is navigating the challenges presented by downtown events. The annual Run for the Schools will be held on October 29. Some streets to the south and east of the church will be closed. College St. will be shut down from Linn St. to Muscatine Ave. Gilbert St. will be shut down from Burlington St. to Washington St. Dodge St. will be shut down and southbound traffic will be rerouted on to Washington St. Governor St. will be shut down and northbound traffic will be rerouted on to Burlington St. **The church and the parking lot will both be accessible.** It might take a few extra minutes to get to church that morning. Plan accordingly, but plan to worship with us. Race maps can be found [here](#).

**ALL SAINTS SUNDAY—NOVEMBER 5:** Each year on the First Sunday in November, Congregational UCC observes "All Saints Sunday." This is a time for us to remember and give thanks to God for the lives of those members of Congregational UCC who have died in the past year—and for all the saints. Our worship service on this day is both solemn and joyful, befitting a congregation of people who live in the light of the resurrection. As is our custom, we will have a jazz band leading our worship on this Sunday in order to help us look toward that day when the saints go marchin' in. The well-known local jazz pianist Dick Watson will again lead the music in what promises to be an inspiring event. Please plan to join us for this special time of worship as we give thanks for the lives of Sandy Boyd, Lee Wood, Marge Hoppin, and Candace Noble.

**WE WILL RECEIVE OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED (NIN) OFFERING ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5:** NIN is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the [Council for American Indian Ministry](#) (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice.

**FREE LUNCH FUNDRAISER:** On Monday, October 16th the Iowa City Free Lunch Program will host their first ever silent auction fundraiser. The fundraiser will take place from 5 to 8pm at Big Grove Brewery in Iowa City. Please join them for an evening of fun and community. You can expect snacks, Free Lunch Programming, and a variety of silent auction items. CONGREGATIONAL UCC WILL BE SERVING AT THE FREE LUNCH PROGRAM THIS MONTH ON OCTOBER 30.

***WHY PEOPLE DON'T VOTE: DISAFFECTED VOTERS AND THE PROCESS OF DEMOCRACY:*** Tuesday, October 24, 6:30-8:00 p.m. at the Iowa City Public Library. Congregational UCC member and Distinguished University Professor of Political Science at the University of Iowa, Caroline Tolbert, will address the question: If voting is such a precious right, why does a large percentage of eligible voters opt not to participate in choosing our elected officials?

**INSIDE OUT REENTRY COMMUNITY TRIVIA NIGHT:** Thursday, November 9, 7-9 p.m., Unitarian Universalist Society, 2355 Oakdale Rd., Coralville. Tickets are \$20/individual, \$100/team of six. Book in advance at [www.insideoutreentry.com](http://www.insideoutreentry.com). Tickets are \$25/person at the door.

**NEW FURNACES AND AIR CONDITIONERS WERE INSTALLED IN THE SUMMER. 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.

**DO YOU HAVE A CHURCH KEY?** We have 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 [kd Richards1958@gmail.com](mailto:kd Richards1958@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 [kd Richards1958@gmail.com](mailto:kd Richards1958@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.