



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

WORSHIP FOR MAY 12, 2024
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
ASCENSION SUNDAY

Gravity is working against me
And gravity wants to bring me down...
Just keep me where the light is
Just keep me where the light is
John Mayer

PRELUDE "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" Gerhard Krapf

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Chuck Connerly, Liturgist
Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed!

* CALL TO WORSHIP
On this day, let us rejoice and be glad.
With God's help we have come this far.

With God's care we will travel further on.

**In all the changes and chances of our lives
God lifts us up in hope wherever we find ourselves.**

[Unison]

Let us worship God.

*HYMN 147 Blessing and Honor"

**Blessing and honor and glory and power,
Wisdom and riches and strength evermore,
Give we to Christ who our battle has won,
Whose are the kingdom, the crown, and the throne.**

**Hear through the heavens the sound of the Name,
While rings the earth with Christ's glory and fame;
Ocean and mountain, stream, forest, and flower
Echo these praises and tell of God's power.**

**Ever ascending the song and the prayer;
Ever descending the love that we share;
Blessing and honor and glory and praise--
This is the theme of the hymns that we raise.**

**Give we the glory and praise to the Lamb;
Take we the robe and the harp and the palm;
Sing we the song of the Lamb that was slain,
Dying in weakness, but rising to reign.**

* OPENING PRAYER

God of all our days, we give you thanks for the ways in which you meet us in the struggles and efforts of our daily lives. For those things we have fulfilled we rejoice; for those things we have left undone we ask your guidance to bring them to completion. In all circumstances help us to realize the good you desire for us all. As we move into the future, give us courage when we fear and trust when we are reluctant.

Lord of all times and places, lift us up and lead us into faith. Draw us to you. From our perspective, we can see so little. Allow us to be taken up and carried beyond ourselves to see a little as you do. Work in us your compassion for the world you embrace. Then we may know what next to do. Amen.

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#150, vs. 2)

**Come, lift your hearts on high; Alleluia! Amen!
Let praises fill the sky! Alleluia! Amen!
Christ is our guide and friend
on whom we can depend;
his love shall never end; Alleluia! Amen!**

ANTHEM "God is Gone Up with a Shout"

Healy Willan

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 "Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun"

Richard Wienhorst

*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

(The children are dismissed to Children's Church)

SCRIPTURE LESSON Ephesians 2:1-10

PSALM 47

Clap your hands, all you peoples;
shout to God with a cry of joy.

**For the Lord Most High is to be feared,
the great Sovereign over all the earth.**

The Lord subdues the peoples under us,
and the nations under our feet.

**The Lord chooses our inheritance for us,
the pride of the beloved Jacob.**

God has gone up with a shout,
the Lord with the sound of the ram's-horn.

**Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our Sovereign, sing praises.**

For God is Sovereign of all the earth;
sing praises with all your skill.

God reigns over the nations;

God sits upon heaven's holy throne.

The nobles of the peoples have gathered together

with the people of the God of Abraham.

**The rulers of the earth belong to God,
and God is highly exalted.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Acts 1:1-11

SERMON “In Transit Gloria”

* HYMN 554 “Let All Things Now Living”

**Let all things now living
A song of thanksgiving
To God our Creator triumphantly raise;
Who fashioned and made us,
Protected and stayed us,
By guiding us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us,
Pure light goes before us,
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night:
Till shadows have vanished
All fearfulness banished,
As forward we travel from light into Light.**

**By law God enforces.
The stars in their courses,
The sun in its orbit obediently shine;
The hills and the mountains,
The rivers and fountains,
The depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We, too, should be voicing
Our love and rejoicing
With glad adoration, a song let us raise:
Till all things now living
Unite in thanksgiving,
To God in the highest, hosanna and praise.**

*BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE “Rejoice, the Lord Is King” Healey Willan

“Let All Things Now Living” Katherine K. Davis. Words and Music - ©1939, 1966 ECS
Publishing 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	Dr. Chris Nakielski

Children's Choir Director
Office Manager

Majesty Constable
Jenn Harden

TODAY

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

MONDAY

- ❖ Serving at Hope Lodge 5:30 pm

SATURDAY

- ❖ Confirmation Class Prayer Retreat 2-4 pm

NEXT SUNDAY

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

WE'RE GLAD THAT YOU ARE WORSHIPPING WITH US THIS MORNING. Everyone is invited to Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall after worship.

THE FLOWERS IN MAY are to honor all the mothers who have lost loved ones to suicide or accidental overdose, and are in Memory of Peter Fieselmann and Zachary Aschoff.

WE WELCOME NICHOLAS RAINE as our guest choir director this morning.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE RECOGNITION: Every year we recognize the high school graduates in our congregation. This year Sylvia Woolums will graduate from City High. The Diaconate has a book available in Rockwood Hall in which you can share your thoughts and good wishes with Sylvia. We will recognize her during worship this morning.

WEAR RED ON PENTECOST SUNDAY—MAY 19: We will celebrate Pentecost on May 19. This day completes the long arc from Ash Wednesday through Easter resurrection to the coming of the Holy Spirit to the followers of Christ—a journey “from ashes to fire.” Pentecost marks God’s gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church and our morning will be a spirited time together. The traditional color for Pentecost is red. We invite everyone to please consider wearing “flame colors”—red, orange, yellow—to worship on Sunday, May 19.

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING WILL BE RECEIVED ON PENTECOST SUNDAY—MAY 19: Each year we receive a special offering that helps the church’s love to grow and thrive. The “Strengthen the Church” offering grows the United Church of Christ’s future by supporting new and renewing churches, youth and young adult ministries, and lay and pastoral leadership development—especially among women and people of color. It also funds the

“Stillspeaking” Ministry, spreading the message of God’s extravagant welcome, reaching out especially to those who have felt there is no room for them within Christianity and the church. On *Sunday, May 19*—Pentecost Sunday—we will receive this offering. Your generous gift will help the UCC create vibrant church communities of extravagant welcome.

THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD IS ACTIVELY SEARCHING FOR A NEW DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION. A complete job description is posted on the church website. Advertising will commence by the end of March. Members of the congregation are encouraged to spread the word and have interested persons contact Rev. William Lovin uccirev@uccic.org and Sally Strang sallystrang@mchsi.com.

PLEASE HELP WITH PARKING IN THE CHURCH LOT: Several people currently have mobility issues and need to park in our small parking lot on 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.

ANOTHER WAY TO HELP THE HOMELESS: Trinity United Methodist Church of Riverside Iowa has purchased a loom and is using clean, plastic bags to construct Sleeping Mats for the homeless. These are lightweight, waterproof, and easy to pack and carry. By contributing our clean, plastic bags, we can help them help others. Bring your clean, unneeded, plastic grocery bags, or trash bags, any color, any size, here, to Rockwood Hall. We will see to it that they are delivered.

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 (319-337-4301) know right away. 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.