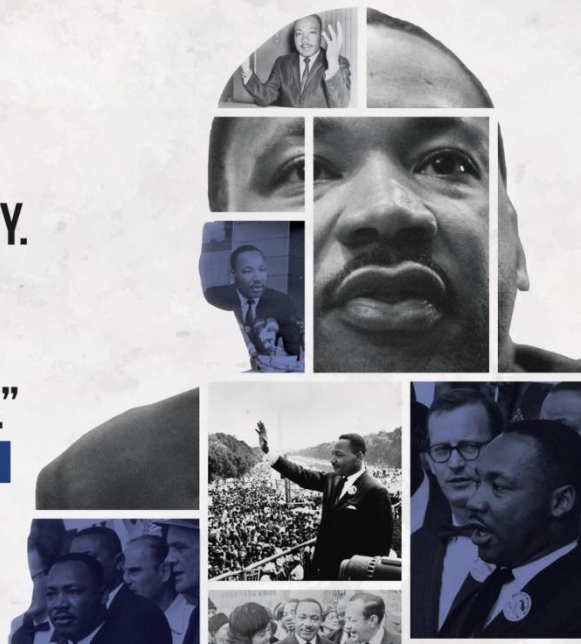


**"I BELIEVE THAT UNARMED TRUTH
AND UNCONDITIONAL LOVE
WILL HAVE THE FINAL WORD IN REALITY.
THIS IS WHY RIGHT,
TEMPORARILY DEFEATED,
IS STRONGER THAN EVIL TRIUMPHANT."**

DR. KING, 1964 NOBEL PEACE PRIZE ACCEPTANCE ADDRESS



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

WORSHIP FOR JANUARY 19, 2025
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
THE REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. SUNDAY

"We've got some difficult days ahead."
Martin Luther King, Jr.

PRELUDE "Give Me Jesus" Mark Hayes

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rick Chambers, Liturgist

CHORAL INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an everflowing stream.

We hear God's call:

Maintain justice, and do what is right.

[Unison]

Come, let us worship God.

*HYMN 413

“All Who Love and Serve Your City”

**All who love and serve your city,
all who bear its daily stress,
all who cry for peace and justice,
all who curse and all who bless:**

**In your day of wealth and plenty,
wasted work and wasted play,
call to mind the word of Jesus,
"You must work while it is day."**

**For all days are days of judgment,
and the Lord is waiting still,
drawing near a world that spurns him,
offering peace from Calvary's hill.**

**Risen Lord, shall yet the city
be the city of despair?
Come today, our judge, our glory.
Be its name “The Lord is there!”**

*OPENING PRAYER (A prayer of Martin Luther King, Jr.)

Most gracious and all wise God, before whose face the generations rise and fall; Thou in whom we live, and move, and have our being...We realize that we stand surrounded with the mountains of love and we deliberately dwell in the valley of hate. We stand amid the forces of truth and deliberately lie. We are forever offered the high road and yet we choose to travel the low road. For these sins, O God, forgive. Break the spell of that which blinds our minds. Purify our hearts that we may see thee. O God in these turbulent days when fear and doubt are mounting high, give us broad visions, penetrating eyes, and power of endurance. Help us to work with renewed vigor for a warless world, for a better distribution of wealth, and for a society that transcends race or color. In the name and spirit of Jesus we pray. Amen.”

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#452, vs. 1-4)

**O day of God, draw nigh
in beauty and in power;
come with your timeless judgment now
to match our present hour.**

**Bring to our troubled minds,
uncertain and afraid,
the quiet of a steadfast faith,
calm of a call obeyed.**

**Bring justice to our land,
that all may dwell secure,
and finely build for days to come
foundations that endure.**

**Bring to our world of strife
your sovereign word of peace,
that war may haunt the earth no more,
and desolation cease.**

ANTHEM “City Called Heaven” arr. Josephine Poelinitz

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 “Deep River” Phillip Keveren

*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 Isaiah 59:9-15a

PSALM 42

As the deer longs for flowing streams,
so longs my soul for you, O God.

**My soul is athirst for God, athirst for the living God;
when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?**

My tears have been my food day and night,
while all day long they say to me,
"Where now is your God?"

I pour out my soul when I think on these things:

**how I went with the multitude and led them into the house of God,
with the voice of praise and thanksgiving,
among those who keep the festival.**

Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul?
and why are you so disquieted within me?

**Put your trust in God;
for I will yet give thanks to the One
who is the help of my countenance, and my God.**

My soul is heavy within me;
therefore I will remember you from the land of Jordan,
and from the peak of Mizar among the heights of Hermon.

**Deep calls to deep at the thunder of your cataracts;
all your rapids and floods have gone over me.**

The Lord grants loving-kindness in the daytime;
in the night season the song of the Lord is with me,
a prayer to the God of my life.

**I will say to the God of my strength,
"Why have you forgotten me?
and why do I go so heavily while the enemy oppresses me?"**

While my bones are being broken,
my enemies mock me to my face;

**all day long they mock me
and say to me, "Where now is your God?"**

Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul?
and why are you so disquieted within me?

**Put your trust in God;
for I will yet give thanks to the One
who is the help of my countenance, and my God.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 5:33-37

SERMON "Unarmed Truth and Unconditional Love"

*RESPONSE OF FAITH

(Adapted from the sermon, "Our God Is Able," by Martin Luther King, Jr.)

Let us declare our faith and hope together:

**We believe in God, at work in the world,
transforming death into life.**

**We believe that God is able to change
desolate valleys into paths of joy;
to give tired feet strength
for striding toward the city of freedom;
to create courage in us
for facing the uncertainties of the future,
and to give us power to endure
that which cannot be changed.**

**When our days become dreary,
and our nights darker
than a thousand midnights,
we believe that God is able
to make a way out of no way
and transform dark yesterdays into bright tomorrows.
This is our hope for becoming a better people.
This is our hope for making a better world.
Amen! Thanks be to God!**

***HYMN 563 "Lift Every Voice and Sing" James Weldon Johnson, J. Rosamond Johnson**

**Lift every voice and sing
'Til earth and heaven ring
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the listening skies
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun
Let us march on 'til victory is won**

**Stony the road we trod
Bitter the chastening rod
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died
Yet with a steady beat
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our parents sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered
Out from the gloomy past
'Til now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast**

**God of our weary years
God of our silent tears
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way
Thou who has by Thy might
Led us into the light
Keep us forever in the path, we pray
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee
Shadowed beneath Thy hand
May we forever stand
True to our God
True to our native land**

***BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE “In Christ There Is No East or West – Dale Wood

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Minister:	The Rev. Bill Lovin
Director of Christian Education:	Hope Spragg
Organist:	Bill Crouch
Choir Director	Dr. Chris Nakielski
Children’s Choir Director	Rachel Burchett
Office Manager	Jenn Harden

TODAY

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

MONDAY

❖ Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Church Office Closed

TUESDAY

❖ Membership Board	5:30 pm
Diaconate	7:00 pm
Trustees	7:00 pm

NEXT SUNDAY

❖ Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am
Christian Education	9:15 am
Worship Service	10:15 am
Annual Meeting of the Congregation	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.

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED TOMORROW, Monday, January 20, in observance of the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.

ADULT EDUCATION: Join us around the fireplace in Rockwood Hall at 9:15 a.m. this Sunday, January 19. The Director of Healing Prairie Farm, Heather Bopp, will lead the session.

Each year in January and February, our Mission Board plans Sunday morning Adult Education sessions that give us a chance to learn about the work that we are doing in our community and in the larger world. This year the Mission Board is helping us develop closer relationships with some of the Iowa City area organizations that we support. Join us each Sunday through February 23 in Rockwood Hall at 9:15 a.m. And because Lent starts so late this year (Ash Wednesday is March 5), there will be a special bonus session on Sunday, March 2!

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST will be held on Sunday, January 26, in the sanctuary, following our 10:15 worship service. We will receive reports of Boards and Committees, vote on the budget for 2025, and transact any other business that is fitting and necessary.

WOMEN'S READING GROUP: Women of the church are invited to attend the Women's Reading Group tea on Saturday, February 1 from 10:30 to noon in Rockwood Hall. The Christian Education Board has approved Jan Robertson's book, *In the Sanctuary of Women* for our first read. It will be introduced at the tea by Rebecca Weatherford. We will conduct a survey of attendees to determine the most convenient day and time to meet thereafter. RSVP to attend by phone, text, or email to Rebecca Weatherford, weatherfordr1776@gmail.com or 319-621-6862.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE 2025 SHELTER HOUSE BOOK SALE! This two-day sale will be hosted on Saturday, March 8 and Sunday, March 9 from 10:30 am—4:00 pm both days at 860 Quarry Road (the old Antique Car Museum) in Coralville.

If you have gently used books, CDs, DVDs, vinyl records, and puzzles, you can drop those off during off at 860 Quarry Road in Coralville, **starting Sunday, February 2**. Donation times will be *Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays* from 10:00 am-2:00 pm, and *Sundays* from 2:00 pm-4:00 pm from February 2 until the week of the sale. Now is the time to start going through your bookshelves and deciding which books you'll return to and which books have served their purpose and are ready to inform or entertain another lucky reader. If you have many books to donate, you can take them directly to the site. **YOU CAN ALSO BRING BOOKS TO THE CHURCH AND DROP THEM OFF IN ROCKWOOD HALL AND JOHN FIESELMANN OR DONNA HIRST CAN TAKE THEM FOR YOU.** (Please note, the sale cannot accept contributions of magazines, encyclopedias, reader's digest, books with no covers or water damage, moldy or musty books, textbooks, cassette tapes, or VHS tapes.)

[Click here](#) for all you need to know about the 2025 Book Sale!

Shelter House is looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help sort books, organize donations, and prepare the space for the big sale. There are more than one hundred slots that need to be filled: add your name to one today! Sign up today at bit.ly/booksale2025.

AT EASTER, IT HAS BEEN OUR TRADITION TO DISPLAY ALL KINDS OF SPRING FLOWERS on the chancel. Bulbs need to be planted soon to bloom in time. Would you be willing to plant, tend and then display a pot of flowers on Easter? Please contact Barb Sisly (319-430-2694, sisleywebb@aol.com) or Rebecca Weatherford (319-621-6862, weatherfordr1776@gmail.com) if you'd like to help so we can order enough bulbs. We'll have instructions for you, so no experience necessary!

HELP WITH SLEEPING MATS STILL NEEDED: With our winter weather just around the corner, the need for more sleeping mats for the homeless is growing! By contributing your plastic bags from your purchases we can help the homeless! Bring your clean, unneeded, plastic grocery bags, or similar plastic bags from your purchases here, to Rockwood Hall. We will see to it that they are delivered.

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.

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/1547852>. The recordings remain up permanently, so you can watch past worship services at your convenience or recommend them to a friend.

(the revelation of Jesus to the Gentiles, the coming of the Magi) with us on Sunday, January 5, 2025. In our 10:15 worship service we will bring our observance of Christmas to a conclusion,

hearing the story of the Magi from the Gospel of Matthew. We will also share in the sacrament of communion.

Prayer for the Iowa State House

Rabbi Esther Hugenholtz and Rev. Mark Pries

Holy One,

God of all spirit and flesh, defender and friend of our common humanity.

We come before You, as the faithful of many sacred paths:

Muslim, Christian, Jewish – and holy ways not yet represented.

We lift up in prayer our elected public servants who are embarking on their journey to serve the people of Iowa.

We ask You to soften and grow each one's heart

to hold all people in this beautiful state with regard and compassion.

We ask You to steel each one's resolve

to pursue justice, remain honest and see the humanity of all they serve.

We pray each elected one embraces the vulnerable so their voices are heard.

Help our public servants, in the words of Psalm 146,

to 'free the imprisoned, lift up the fallen, straighten the bent and protect the stranger, widow and orphan.'

Holy One, safeguard their conscience,

their moral commitments

and their dedication to democracy.

May this be Your will,

Amen