



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

WORSHIP FOR JANUARY 26, 2025
THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY

“In the midst of winter, I realized there was in me an invincible summer.”
Albert Camus

PRELUDE “All People That on Earth Do Dwell” Phillip Keveren

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Nadia Spagg, Liturgist

CHORAL INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 31)

Love the Lord, all you people.

[Unison]

**Be strong, and let your heart take courage,
all you who wait for the Lord.
Let us worship God.**

***HYMN 275 “God of Our Life”**

**God of our life, through all the circling years,
We trust in Thee;
In all the past, through all our hopes and fears,
Thy hand we see.
With each new day, when morning lifts the veil,
We own Thy mercies, Lord, which never fail.**

**God of the past, our times are in Thy hand;
With us abide.
Lead us by faith, to hope's true promised land;
Be Thou our guide.
With Thee to bless, the darkness shines as light,
and faith's fair vision changes into sight.**

**God of the coming years, through paths unknown
We follow Thee;
When we are strong, Lord, leave us not alone;
Our refuge be.
Be Thou for us in life our daily bread,
Our heart's true home when all our years have sped.**

***OPENING PRAYER**

**O God of all times and places,
we pray for your Church,
which is set today amid the perplexities of a changing order,
and face to face with new tasks.
Baptize us afresh in the life-giving spirit of Jesus.
Bestow upon us a great responsiveness to duty,
a swifter compassion with suffering,
and an utter loyalty to your will.
Help us to proclaim boldly the coming of your realm.
Put upon our lips the ancient gospel of our Lord.
Fill us with the prophets' scorn of tyranny,
and with a Christlike tenderness for the heavy-laden and downtrodden;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#424, vs. 1 & 2)**

**O Jesus Christ, may grateful hymns be rising,
in every city for your love and care;
inspire our worship, grant the glad surprising
that your blest Spirit rouses everywhere.**

**Grant us new courage, sacrificial, humble,
strong in your strength to venture and to dare;**

**to lift the fallen, guide the feet that stumble,
seek out the lonely and God's mercy share.**

ANTHEM "O Be Joyful in the Lord" Charles Wood

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 "Fughetta on the Hymn Tune *Old Hundredth*" Johann Christoph Bach

*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 I Corinthians 12:14-27

PSALMS 133 & 134

Oh, how good and pleasant it is,
when the community lives together in unity!

**It is like fine oil upon the head
that runs down upon the beard,**

upon the beard of Aaron,
and runs down upon the collar of his robe.

**It is like the dew of Hermon
that falls upon the hills of Zion.**

For there the Lord has ordained the blessing:
life forevermore.

**Behold now, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord,
you that stand by night in the house of the Lord.**

Lift up your hands in the holy place and bless the Lord;
the Lord who made heaven and earth bless you out of Zion.

SCRIPTURE LESSON John 14:15-21

SERMON “It’s Not Your Chicken Coop”

*HYMN 418 “God, Bless Your Church with Strength”

**God bless your church with strength!
Wherever we may be,
up build your servants as we work
in common ministry.
Urge us from fledgling faith
to venture and to soar
through open skies to sing the praise
of Christ whom we adore.**

**God bless your church with life!
May all our branches thrive,
unblemished, wholesome, bearing fruit,
abundantly alive.
From you, one holy vine,
in freedom may we grow;
sustain us in our mission, Lord,
your love and peace to show.**

**God bless your church with hope!
Despite chaotic days,
may we in chaos shine to light
a pathway through life's maze.
May justice be our aim,
and kindness ours to share;
in humbleness O may we walk,
assured our God is there!**

*BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” Michael Burkhardt

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Opening Prayer by Walter Rauschenbusch (1861-1916) adapted. Public Domain. Rauschenbusch was an American Baptist pastor and theologian and a leading figure in the Social Gospel movement.

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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
Annual Meeting of the Congregation	After Worship

MONDAY

❖ Membership Board	5:30 pm
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NEXT SUNDAY

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

WE’RE GLAD THAT YOU HAVE JOINED US FOR WORSHIP THIS MORNING.

Everyone is invited to Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall after worship.

ADULT EDUCATION: Join us around the fireplace in Rockwood Hall at 9:15 a.m. this Sunday, January 26. Diane Platte, Co-Director of the Iowa City Free Lunch Program, will lead the session. Next Sunday, February 2, Kaitelyn McQuown, Director of the Little Creations Academy will talk about their work.

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 this morning, 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.