



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

WORSHIP FOR OCTOBER 6, 2024
 TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
 WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Welcome to Congregational UCC. We are glad that you are here this morning. While we affirm that God speaks to us in many ways, we ask that you silence your cell phone as you enter the sanctuary. Please use the time during the prelude to quietly prepare for worship.

Today is a communion Sunday. If you are joining us online, before the worship service, you are invited to assemble what you will eat and what you will drink. It can be bread and grape juice or wine or as simple as a cracker or rice cake and water for use in our worship.

“World Communion Sunday reminds us that Christ calls us to a table where the welcome is wide. He offers us a space with bread and wine in abundance to give solace to our sorrow and to stir our joy. Even as Christ invites us to this table, he does not mean for us to linger here forever. He gives us sustenance in order to send us forth, carrying a space of welcome within us, called to offer it to those we meet: one more, and one more, and one more...”

Jan Richardson

PRELUDE “Let Us Break Bread Together”

arr. Cindy Berry

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Marsha Lowe, Liturgist

CHORAL INTROIT

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

On this World Communion Sunday,
we gather knowing that our sisters and brothers
from north and south and east and west,
from every time zone around the globe.
also gather to share this common meal.

**On this day, we are also mindful that neighbors near and far are
living in the middle of natural disasters,
living in the midst of ongoing wars,
living in the middle of changes they cannot control,
and finding their lives uprooted.**

We remember the words of the Psalmist:

“God is our refuge and our strength,
a very present help in trouble.”

Let us worship God.

***HYMN (insert) “Saranam, Saranam”* (vs. 1-3)**

***Refuge**

**Refrain: Jesus, Savior, Lord, lo, to thee I fly: Saranam, Saranam, Saranam;
thou the Rock, my refuge that's higher than I: Saranam, Saranam, Saranam.**

**1. In the midst of foes I cry to thee, from the ends of earth wherever I may be;
my strength in helplessness, O answer me: Saranam, Saranam, Saranam. [Refrain]**

**2. In thy tent give me a dwelling place, and beneath thy wings may I find sheltering grace;
O lift on me the sunshine of thy face: Saranam, Saranam, Saranam. [Refrain]**

**3. O that I my vows to thee may pay, and that by thy faithfulness to me each day
may live, and on thy love my burdens lay: Saranam, Saranam, Saranam. [Refrain]**

***OPENING PRAYER**

**O God, our great strength, help us to fix our eyes on you, trusting in your mercy. Help us to
look into the world and discover that you are there. Strengthen us as we hold out open
hearts and hands to the refugee, to the homeless, to the lonely, to the broken in mind and
spirit. Stir us with your presence, your strength, and your love. All this we ask in your
name, Amen.**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (“Saram,” vs. 4)**

**Jesus, Savior, Lord, lo, to thee I fly,
Saranam, Saranam, Saranam;
thou the Rock, my refuge that's higher than I:**

**Saranam, Saranam, Saranam;
Yesterday, today, for-e're the same,
lo, the heritage of all who bear thy name;
to free them all from sin the Savior came:
Saranam, Saranam, Saranam.**

ANTHEM “God Is Seen” arr. Alice Parker

SERVICE OF GIVING

Invitation

Offertory “Let Us Break Bread Together” arr. 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 “This Is the Day” Children’s Choir
(The children are dismissed to Children’s Choir)

SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 66:18b-23

PSALM 61:1-5, 8

God, hear my cry; listen to my prayer.

**From the end of the earth I call to you with fainting heart;
lift me up and set me high on a rock.**

For you have been my shelter,
a tower of strength against the enemy.

**In your tent I shall make my home for ever
and find shelter under the cover of your wings.**

For you, God will hear my vows
and grant the wish of those who revere your name.

**So I shall ever sing psalms in honor of your name
as I fulfill my vows day after day.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Romans 13:7-14

SERMON “Love Your Neighbor—Near and Far”

THE LORD’S SUPPER

INVITATION

HYMN 515 “Now, to Your Table Spread”

**Now to your table spread
We come, each one in faith
That You alone provide the words of life and death:
In wine and bread,
On promised food
We find Your loving heart, O God.**

**Hands of the world stretch out
Your mystery to touch
In longing to believe a truth beyond our reach,
To sing in joy,
To cry in grief,
To know Your meaning for our life.**

**Here is our common wealth
In sharing what is good,
As though all humankind around one table stood,
This bread to break,
This wine to taste:
One people in the name of Christ.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

REMEMBRANCE

**Across the world, around each table,
bread is broken and wine is poured.
We remember as we eat this bread
we become the body of Christ together
and as we drink this cup
we become branches on Christ's life-giving vine.**

We remember that on the night of his arrest...

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF BREAD AND CUP

(Communion will be served in the pews today. Please receive the bread or cup as they are offered to you by a deacon. Hold it until all have been served, and we will eat and drink together at the pastor's guidance. We serve grape juice, not wine. Gluten-free wafers are on the trays with the bread. In the Congregational United Church of Christ, we celebrate the Lord's Supper with openness and welcome. Everyone is invited to the table, regardless of church membership or denominational affiliation.)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Spirit of God:

**By this bread connect us more closely with you,
and with our neighbors near and far.**

**By this cup remind us of the interconnectedness
of people around the world.**

**May this simple meal enlighten the eyes of our hearts
and bring us into communion with you, your people, and your world.**

We ask this in the name of Jesus, our friend and companion. Amen.

*HYMN 440 “In Christ There Is No East or West”

BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE “Fughetta in G Major” Robert Lind

Opening prayer from the Episcopal Church

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

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

	TODAY
❖ Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am
Christian Education for All Ages	9:15 am
Worship Service	10:15 am
CE Pop Up Potluck	5:00 pm

	TUESDAY
❖ Mission Board	7:000 pm

	NEXT SUNDAY
❖ Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am

Christian Education for All Ages
Worship Service

9:15 am
10:15 am

GIVING TOGETHER. GROWING TOGETHER: The Christian life is lived together. We gather to worship, we work with each other in mission, we study in groups, we bear one another's burdens, and we talk and laugh together over coffee. We give together. We grow together. During worship this month members of our congregation will talk about why they give to support all that we do together. We will look ahead to the coming year and new opportunities and new possibilities.

HOPE SPRAGG AND THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ARE HOLDING AN IMPROMPTU POTLUCK TONIGHT AT 5:00 PM in Rockwood Hall. This event is for all families with children and youth in our congregation. It will be an opportunity to learn about upcoming programs and events and for the Board to hear new ideas and hopes you may have for your family's church experience this year.

AN OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT CHRISTMAS GIVING AT OPEN HEARTLAND:

Our friends at Open Heartland are working to support immigrant families during the Christmas season. They are hosting their 6th annual Christmas celebration in December and they need our help now. You can buy gifts for a family from their wish list, make a monetary donation, and/or provide 6 dozen cookies. Please let them know how you would like to be involved by this Thursday, October 10. Contact Deb Dunkhase at 319-321-5528 or email at openheartlandic@gmail.com. Thanks!

RUN FOR THE SCHOOLS—SUNDAY OCTOBER 6: One of the joys of worship is navigating the challenges presented by downtown events. The 49th Annual Run for the Schools will be held on October 6. 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.

AGAPE CAFÉ VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: Agape Cafe is a pop-up style restaurant located in Old Brick Church where they serve free hot dine-in or to-go breakfasts for our neighbors every Wednesday from 7:30-9AM. Since the beginning of the academic semester, they have experienced a significant uptick in guests coming in for their services, averaging more than 105 meals served. With the higher demand, they are on the lookout for consistent volunteers who can help fulfill their mission of feeding our friends and neighbors experiencing homelessness and/or food insecurity. If you are interested in pitching in to help prep food, serve, or with clean-up, we would love to have you. Please email agapebreakfast@gmail.com for additional information.

INTERGENERATIONAL MEET-UP AT THE HARVEST PRESERVE. Save the date, November 9 from 2-4. Join the CE Board for snacks at the pond house and an optional walk through the woods to the Harvest Stone Circle. And watch for more details!

SHARE THE HARVEST: John Fuller and Kathy Fait have been bringing beautiful flowers and tempting vegetables every Sunday for several years...all from their gardens. A free-will donation is requested for the bouquets, apples, young kale, chard, tomatoes, scapes, and other great vegetables. And, this year the donations, which are sent to the CommUnity Food Bank, reflect the generous giving from our congregation. As of September 23, John and Kathy's efforts have already raised \$447.12 from members, which will be sent to fight against food insecurity in our community.

FALL DIAPER DRIVE FOR COMMUNITY FOOD BANK: The Mission Board is holding a diaper drive in **September and October** to help the Food Bank replenish its supply of diapers for families in need. The Food Bank relies on donations for non-food items such as disposable diapers. Please help babies and toddlers in our community stay dry, clean, and healthy by participating in the diaper drive. **Diaper sizes 3, 4, 5, and 6 are the most needed as well as baby wipes.** There are two ways you can help. Buy a package of disposable diapers and wipes and bring them to Rockwood Hall. We will ensure that everything is delivered to the Food Bank. Or, if you would like to make a personal donation to support this drive, please write a check to the church with Diaper Drive on the memo line and the Mission Board will use the funds to purchase diapers. Whichever way you choose, your donation will help restock the Food Bank's diaper supply, provide free diapers for babies and toddlers in need and bring some economic relief to families.

WINTER CLOTHING DISTRIBUTION will be from the afternoon of Sunday, 10/13, through the early afternoon of Saturday, 10/19. Over the span of these days we will set up, accept clothing donations, sort & organize clothing, distribute the clothing, & clean up after the event. The event will be held in the gymnasium of The River Community Church, 3001 Muscatine Avenue, in Iowa City. (Enter the parking lot via the driveway on Muscatine Ave; please park away from the building)

As in past years, they are looking for donations of gently used or new WARM winter wear, with an emphasis on coats, snow pants, hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, boots & winter shoes. Heavy sweaters & sweatshirts are also appreciated.

Volunteers will need to register using SignUpGenius at the following link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0B49A9AE2FA20-51081789-2024>

As you sign up, please pay attention to further information & instructions provided on our SignUpGenius.

THE JOHNSON COUNTY INTERFAITH COALITION IS AGAIN HAVING A FRIEND AND FUND RAISER at the Unitarian Universalist Society, Nov. 20, 6:00-8:30. The church has purchased a table for 10 and a table for 7. All you need to do is tell Jenn Harden (319-337-4301) or Donna Hirst that you'd like to attend. If you would like to be a volunteer (likely serving food), let Donna know: donna-hirst@uiowa.edu. You can make an individual donation by giving a check to Bea Hicks, JCIC Treasurer.

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.