



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

WORSHIP FOR NOVEMBER 17, 2024
TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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.

“Every day you have to make a choice between love and fear. As much as you can, choose love.”
Quincy Jones

PRELUDE “O God, Our Help in Ages Past” Cindy Berry

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Andrea Rauer, Liturgist

CHORAL INTROIT

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

We arrive here at worship

bringing our prayers, our troubles, and our desires.

We cry out within this community

from our searching hearts and our struggling faith.

We trust that God hears us and holds us,

taking comfort in God's abiding love.

With bold hope and open hearts

let us worship God!

*** HYMN 427 "Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service"**

Lord, whose love through humble service

bore the weight of human need,

who upon the cross, forsaken,

worked your mercy's perfect deed:

we, your servants, bring the worship

not of voice alone, but heart;

consecrating to your purpose

every gift which you impart.

Still your children wander homeless;

still the hungry cry for bread;

still the captives long for freedom;

still in grief we mourn our dead.

As you, Lord, in deep compassion

healed the sick and freed the soul,

by your Spirit send your power

to our world to make it whole.

As we worship, grant us vision,

till your love's revealing light

in its height and depth and greatness

dawns upon our quickened sight,

making known the needs and burdens

your compassion bids us bear,

stirring us to ardent service,

your abundant life to share.

Called from worship to Your service,

Forth in Your dear name we go,

To the child, the youth, the aged,

Love in living deeds to show;

Hope and health, goodwill and comfort,

Counsel, aid, and peace we give,

**That Your servants, Lord, in freedom
May Your mercy know and live.**

***OPENING PRAYER**

Because you dwell in our hearts, Eternal God, you know the anger, the pain, and the grief of our lives. The noise of the world deafens us to your Word which can heal us. When trouble comes, when adversity plagues us, we wonder where you are; we often even wonder who you are. Dispel our gloom and despair. Transform our darkness into light. Heal our bodies, minds, and spirits. Restore our health and wholeness so that we may go forth to share the goodness of your joy and justice with others. Amen.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#223, vs. 1 & 2)**

**O my soul, bless your Redeemer;
All within me, bless God's Name;
Bless the Savior, and forget not
All God's mercies to proclaim.**

**God forgives all your transgressions,
All diseases gently heals;
God redeems you from destruction,
And with you so kindly deals.**

ANTHEM “Our God, Our Help in Ages Past” Alan Hovhaness

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 “Sostenuto” Flor Peeters

*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 Daniel 12:1-3

PSALM 16

Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you;
I have said to the Lord, "You are my Lord, my good above all other."

**All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land,
upon those who are noble among the people.**

But those who run after other gods
shall have their troubles multiplied.

**Their libations of blood I will not offer,
nor take the names of their gods upon my lips.**

O Lord, you are my portion and my cup;
it is you who uphold my lot.

**My boundaries enclose a pleasant land;
indeed, I have a goodly heritage.**

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel;
my heart teaches me, night after night.

**I have set the Lord always before me;
because you are at my right hand I shall not fall.**

My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;
my body also shall rest in hope.

**For you will not abandon me to the grave,
nor let your holy one see the pit.**

[Unison]

**You will show me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy,
and in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Mark 13:1-8

SERMON "Wholeness and Upheaval"

*HYMN 452 "O Day of God, Draw Nigh"

**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.**

**O day of God, draw nigh
as at creation's birth;
let there be light again,
and set your judgments on the earth.**

BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE “O God, Our Help in Ages Past” George Miles

CALL TO WORSHIP from Fourth Presbyterian Church, Chicago, November 15, 2015, alt.

OPENING PRAYER used and altered with gracious permission by the Rev. Raven Rowe, former member of Congregational UCC, who was ordained from this church. Raven is currently a hospice Chaplain in Dayton, OH. She recently completed her Doctor of Ministry in Interreligious Chaplaincy Studies.

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
Financial Manager	Sharyn Huriaux Reitz

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
Special Music Choir Rehearsal	11:35 am
	TUESDAY
❖ Membership Board	5:30 pm
Diaconate	7:00 pm
Trustees	7:00 pm

Stewardship Board (Zoom)	7:00 pm
	WENESDAY
❖ Staff Meeting	11:00 am
New Member Class	7:00 pm
	NEXT SUNDAY
❖ Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am
Christian Education for All Ages	9:15 am
Worship Service	10:15 am
Special Music Choir Rehearsal	11:35 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. Please return your 2025 pledge card as soon as possible. Extra cards are available on the table outside of the sanctuary.

**MISSION BOARD ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS GIVING FAIR
TODAY and DECEMBER 1ST and 15TH**

Please join us downstairs in Rockwood Hall today for the first of three opportunities to visit our Alternative Christmas Giving Fair. There will be Heifer Project animal gift cards bearing Ginny Clemons' graceful calligraphy and Church World Service "ornaments". Proceeds from Christmas cards, jewelry, and gift baskets donated by artists and craftspeople in our congregation will go to local community agencies. The Mitten Tree is awaiting your new or gently used mittens, scarves, and hats for the Joan Buxton School project. The Angel Tree will have toy request cards from the Salvation Army and envelopes for a holiday meal donation distributed by CommUnity. Photo and picture frame sales will benefit our Church Endowment Fund. Contact John Reitz at 319-333-9588, john-reitz@uiowa.edu for information.

Come have a cup of coffee and browse!

OUR NEXT HOPE LODGE DINNER will be tomorrow, Monday, November 18. For those who would like to provide food there is a signup sheet in Rockwood Hall. Others are welcome to eat dinner and visit with residents. Dinner is served at 5:30 p.m.

ADVENT LUNCHEON: There is a sign-up sheet in Rockwood Hall for the Advent Luncheon (potluck) which will be held on December 8 following worship and the Special Music presentation. Plan to be part of this all church event and a time for fellowship together.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS CAROLING for all ages on Dec. 15 from 4-7. The CE board will sponsor dinner in Rockwood Hall followed by Christmas Caroling. We are inviting First Presbyterian to join us for this festive event! We'll begin with supper & fellowship, followed by a brief caroling practice and then break into groups with addresses to visit church family & friends with the gift of song. Sign-up is in Rockwood Hall along with requests for favorite songs and suggestions of caroling destinations.

THE JOHNSON COUNTY INTERFAITH COALITION IS HAVING THEIR ANNUAL FRIEND AND FUND RAISER at the Unitarian Universalist Society, Nov. 20, 6:00-8:30. The church has purchased three tables. 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.

SHELTER HOUSE SOUP LUNCHEON & SOCK DRIVE: Monday, November 18 - 10:00am-1:00pm. Leave your lunch at home and join them for homemade soups and tasty desserts at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church (123 E Market Street, Iowa City). Start your week off right! They will be accepting free-will monetary donations and new socks and underwear for their winter emergency shelter.

THE IOWA UCC CONFERENCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS invites all members and churches the opportunity to meet and talk with the Tri-Conference candidate for Conference Minister, Rev. Roberto Ochoa. On Sunday, November 24th, there will be a **Meet and Greet** at 2:00 pm. We welcome you to come meet and speak with Rev. Ochoa in person at Grinnell UCC or join the conversation via Zoom. Here's the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87021686684#success>. **Meeting ID:** 870 2168 6684.

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.

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.