



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

WORSHIP FOR APRIL 27, 2025  
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

“It behooves us North American Christians to realize now what the German churches learned too late: It is not enough to resist with confession; we must confess with resistance.”

William Sloan Coffin

PRELUDE “Prelude in D Major,” BWV 936 J.S. Bach

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Andrea Rauer, Liturgist

Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed!**

CHORAL INTROIT

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

In the shadow of resurrection

**We will live out our faith.**

In the crumbs of broken bread

**We will proclaim our Savior risen.**

In shared meals and joys and struggles

**We will trust the promise of grace.**

In the community gathered at the empty tomb

**We will believe what the world does not.**

In the gravestone now rolled away

**We will trust in the joy of resurrection and act boldly in this faith.**

**\*HYMN 434                    “Today We are Called to be Disciples”**

**Today we all are called to be**

**disciples of the Lord,**

**to help to set the captive free,**

**make plowshare out of sword,**

**to feed the hungry, quench their thirst,**

**make love and peace our fast,**

**to serve the poor and homeless first,**

**our ease and comfort last.**

**God made the world and at its birth**

**ordained our human race**

**to live as stewards of the earth,**

**responding to God’s grace.**

**But we are vain and sadly proud;**

**we sow not peace but strife.**

**Our discord spreads a deadly cloud**

**that threatens all of life.**

**Pray justice may come rolling down**

**as in a mighty stream,**

**with righteousness in field and town**

**to cleanse us and redeem.**

**For God is longing to restore**

**an earth where conflicts cease,**

**a world that was created for**

**a harmony of peace.**

**May we in service to our God**

**act out the living word,**

**and walk the road the saints have trod**

**till all have seen and heard.**

**As stewards of the earth may we**

**give thanks in one accord**

**to God who calls us all to be  
disciples of the Lord.**

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

**God of resurrection and renewal, it is too simple to leave Easter as one exciting, chocolate-filled day, and then slip back into passive lives of privilege. Draw us out of our lethargy into the arena of your insistent love.**

**Our world can go silent, unwilling to hear what needs to be said, with hearts closed to the crises of creation and ears stopped up to the cries of pain of our brothers and sisters.**

**In our resurrection faith, we believe that all things can be made new. May you give us the courage to name what degrades your creation, that it may be redeemed with life. Love our communities, our nation, and our world back to life. May you listen in grace and heal us into an active love. Amen.**

**ANTHEM      “This Easter Morn”                      Charles Kimberling**

**TIME OF PRAYER**

Prayers of the People

Silent Prayer

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      “Allemande”                      Johann Adam Reinken

\*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 Snack-Time Revolt”**  
(The children are dismissed to Children’s Church)

**SCRIPTURE LESSON              Acts 5:17-25**

Then the high priest took action; he and all who were with him (that is, the sect of the Sadducees), being filled with jealousy, arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors, brought them out, and said, “Go, stand in the temple and tell the people the whole message about this life.” When they

heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak and went on with their teaching. When the high priest and those with him arrived, they called together the council and the whole body of the elders of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought. But when the temple police went there, they did not find them in the prison; so they returned and reported, “We found the prison securely locked and the guards standing at the doors, but when we opened them, we found no one inside.” Now when the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these words, they were perplexed about them, wondering what might be going on. Then someone arrived and announced, “Look, the men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people!”

PSALM 118:14-29

God is our strength and our might;

**God is our salvation.**

We shall not die, but we shall live

**And recount the deeds of God.**

You are our God and we will give you thanks;

**You are our God, we will extol you.**

O Give thanks for God is good;

**God’s steadfast love endures forever.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON (continued)

Acts 5:22-42

Then the captain went with the temple police and brought them, but without violence, for they were afraid of being stoned by the people. When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man’s blood on us.” But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.” When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, respected by all the people, stood up and ordered the men to be put outside for a short time. Then he said to them, “Fellow Israelites, consider carefully what you propose to do to these men. For some time ago Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him; but he was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and disappeared. After him Judas the Galilean rose up at the time of the census and got people to follow him; he also perished, and all who followed him were scattered. So in the present case, I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone; because if this plan or this undertaking is of human origin, it will fail; but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them—in that case you may even be found fighting against God!” They were convinced by him, and when they had called in the apostles, they had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. As they left the council, they rejoiced that they were considered worthy to suffer dishonor for the sake of the name. And every day in the temple and at home they did not cease to teach and proclaim Jesus as the Messiah.

SERMON

“I Won’t Stand for This”

\*HYMN 386

“O for a World”

**O for a world where everyone  
respects each other's ways,  
where love is lived and all is done  
with justice and with praise.**

**O for a world where goods are shared  
and misery relieved,  
where truth is spoken, children spared,  
equality achieved.**

**We welcome one world family  
and struggle with each choice  
that opens us to unity  
and gives our vision voice.**

**The poor are rich, the weak are strong,  
the foolish ones are wise.  
Tell all who mourn, outcasts belong,  
who perishes will rise.**

**O for a world preparing for  
God's glorious reign of peace,  
where time and tears will be no more,  
and all but love will cease.**

\*BENEDICTION

And now may the Lord torment you.

May the Lord keep before you the faces of the hungry, the lonely, the rejected, and the despised.

May the Lord afflict you with pain for the hurt, the wounded, the oppressed, the abused, the victims of violence.

May God grace you with agony, a burning thirst for justice and righteousness.

May the Lord give you courage and strength and compassion to make your community a better community.

And may you do your best to make it so.

And after you have done your best, may the Lord grant you peace.

Bishop Woodie W. White, UMC, 1996

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

“Fugue in D Major,” F. 31, No. 3

Wilhelm Friedemann Bach

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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 for all ages	9:15 am
Worship Service	10:15 am
Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall	After Worship
Choir Rehearsal	11:30 am
Bible Study	11:30 am

#### NEXT SUNDAY

❖ Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am
Christian Education for all ages	9:15 am
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Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall	After Worship
Choir Rehearsal	11:30 am
Bible Study	11:30 am

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

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

**WE WELCOME THE REV. BOB MOLSBERRY** to our pulpit this morning. Bob is a retired UCC minister and a member of Congregational UCC. The Rev. Bill Lovin has this morning off and will be back at the church on Monday afternoon.

**ADULT EDUCATION ON SUNDAY, APRIL 27:** Lisa Steigleder, Director of Development and Marketing, Iowa City Free Medical & Dental Clinic, will join us to talk about the work of the Clinic. Congregational UCC is providing funds to help them in offering care to those who otherwise would not have it. The Iowa City Free Medical and Dental Clinic is a non-profit organization established in 1972. They believe that access to affordable health care is a basic human necessity, and they strive to provide the widest range of medical and dental services possible to people in the Iowa City and surrounding community who would not otherwise have access to care. Join us in Rockwood Hall at 9:15 a.m.

**THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO GAVE TO OUR ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING** on Palm Sunday. So far, we have received nearly \$5000. In a world where communities are being displaced by the catastrophes of war, famine, and natural disaster, our congregation joins with many others in standing in faith, hope, and love with those who seek to move beyond the trauma of displacement toward the promise of healing and peace. Your generous gift will support the relief work of not only the UCC but also many other denominations united in caring for refugees, in providing medical care, and in disaster recovery efforts. There's still time to give—or to give more. Please use the special OGHS envelopes in the pews and/or put “OGHS” on your check memo line.

**AFTER WORSHIP BIBLE STUDY:** The Rev. Ann Molsberry's Bible Study will meet for the final three sessions on Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> and Sunday May 11<sup>th</sup>. As long as the choir rehearses after worship, we will meet.

**ADULT EDUCATION WRAPS UP WITH THE LAST SUPPER:** On May 4 and 11, John and Randee Fieselmann will lead discussions on the meanings of the Last Supper, with slides and commentary about depictions of the Last Supper across the ages, ending with Leonardo's most famous fresco. Join us in Rockwood Hall at 9:15 a.m.

**THE WOMEN'S READING GROUP** is reading *In the Sanctuary of Women* by Jan Richardson. We will meet on May 10 at 10:00 to discuss chapter 3: "A Way in the Wilderness, The Book of the Desert Mothers." All women are invited.

**GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH (123 E MARKET ST, IC) INVITES EVERYONE TO A TABLE TALK AND POTLUCK LUNCH** this afternoon, Sunday, April 27 from 12:00 noon to 1:30 pm. Their panel will present services and responses to assist and support immigrants. Speakers are: Lutheran Services in Iowa (Erin Good), Agudas Achim Congregation (Rabbi Esther Hugenholtz), and Open Heartland (Deb Dunkhase). The event and potluck are free. Not able to bring food? Worry not, as Gloria Dei member Marge Reid has noted, “There's always enough food at Lutheran potlucks!”

**HOPE LODGE:** Our next Hope Lodge dinner will be Monday, May 12 at 6:00 p.m. If you would like to contribute food, check the signup sheet in Rockwood Hall or talk to Sue Dayton.

**SPRING SPECIAL MUSIC SUNDAY—May 18 Spring Brunch after Worship:** On Sunday, May 18, the Congregational Choir, under the direction of Dr. Chris Nakielski and the accompaniment of William Crouch, will offer “*The Hope of Loving*” by Jake Runestad. The Membership Board is hosting a Spring Brunch in Rockwood Hall after our worship that morning. During this time, we will recognize members who joined the church this past year. The brunch will be catered. So, no need to bring anything. To help us plan, we would like to get an approximate count of how many people will attend. Please indicate on the sign-up sheets in Rockwood Hall if you plan to attend and how many may be coming with you. We are looking forward to this time to celebrate spring and enjoy beautiful music.

**IOWA CITY PRIDE FESTIVAL** is Saturday, June 21—less than two months away—and the Mission Board members invite you to participate in the parade and/or the booth. Last year more than 40 members of the congregation including friends and family enjoyed the celebration. In 2025 we welcome everyone to join us as we proudly show love and support for the LGBTQ+ community and celebrate the historic inclusive commitment of our denomination and congregation where all are welcome. For more information or to share your willingness to help contact any member of the subcommittee: Dianne Atkins, Martha Ann Crawford, Linda Muston, Hope Spragg, Rebecca Weatherford or Julie Wittig.

**HELP WITH MEALS FOR MEMBERS:** Occasionally, members of our congregation who are injured or ill can use a meal prepared for them. Our Membership Board wants to be ready when the need arises. If you can help provide an occasional meal, please sign up on the sheet in Rockwood Hall. Thanks!

**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.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** on August 18-20, Mon-Wed, 8AM-11AM. All children pre-k-high school are encouraged to attend as campers or helpers! Silver cord hours are available for high school volunteers. This is a great opportunity to bring a friend! Sign-up in Rockwood Hall!

**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.