



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

WORSHIP FOR MAY 26, 2024
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

“It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom -- and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”

Abraham Lincoln

PRELUDE “Prelude “ William H. Harris

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

The Spirit of the living God breathes upon us,
and on all that is finite and fragile.

**God is our refuge and our strength,
a help in times of trouble.**

God's continual presence makes new possibilities break through.
Be strong and let your heart take courage.

**In the company of God
and joined with the company of God's people,
let us worship together.**

*** HYMN 473 "For the Beauty of the Earth" (vs. 1-4)**

**For the beauty of the earth
For the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the wonder of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flower
Sun and moon and stars of light,
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the joy of ear and eye,
For the heart and mind's delight,
For the mystic harmony
Linking sense to sound and sight,
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above
For all gentle thoughts and mild,
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.**

*** OPENING PRAYER (Church of Scotland, The Rev. Sandy Forsyth, adapted)**

We thank you, God, that you have been with us in the past.

You have led us through the wilderness that life can be.

When we were lost, you searched for us.

When we were in deepest struggle, you comforted us.

For your love and commitment to all people, we praise you, God.

**Come to us now in our lives as we look ahead once more.
In worship, speak to us.
In our journey through life, go with us.
When our lives are troubled, be with us.
When we are uncertain, steady us.
For your love which holds us forever, we give you thanks. Amen.**

*** CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#473)
For the good that love inspires, for a world where none exclude
For a faith that never tires, and for every heart renewed
Lord of all to Thee we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.**

ANTHEM "Cornerstone"

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 "Largo" Henry Heron

*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 II Samuel 1:17-27

PSALM 33

Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous;
it is good for the just to sing praises.

**For your word, O Lord, is right,
and all your works are sure.**

You love righteousness and justice;

your loving-kindness, O Lord, fills the whole earth.

**By your word, O Lord, were the heavens made,
by the breath of your mouth all the heavenly hosts.**

Let all the earth fear the Lord;

let all who dwell in the world stand in reverence.

**For the Lord spoke, and it came to pass;
the Lord commanded, and it stood fast.**

The Lord brings the will of the nations to naught
and thwarts the designs of the peoples.

**But the Lord's will stands fast forever,
and the designs of the Lord's heart from age to age.**

Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord!

happy the people you have chosen to be your own!

**There is no ruler that can be saved by a mighty army;
a warrior is not delivered by great strength.**

The horse is a vain hope for deliverance;

for all its strength it cannot save.

**Behold, your eye, O Lord, is upon those who fear you,
on those who wait upon your love,**

to pluck their lives from death,

and to feed them in time of famine.

**Our soul waits for you, O Lord;
you are our help and our shield.**

Indeed, our heart rejoices in you,

for in your holy name we put our trust.

**Let your loving-kindness, O Lord, be upon us,
as we have put our trust in you.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON John 15:9-17

SERMON "Remembrance Moves Toward Peace"

* HYMN 450 "O Day of Peace"

**O day of peace that dimly shines
through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,
guide us to justice, truth, and love,
delivered from our selfish schemes.
May swords of hate fall from our hands,
our hearts from envy find release,
till by God's grace our warring world
shall see Christ's promised reign of peace.**

**Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb,
nor shall the fierce devour the small.
As beasts and cattle calmly graze,**

extravagant welcome, reaching out especially to those who have felt there is no room for them within Christianity and the church. **There is still time to give.** Your generous gift will help the UCC create vibrant church communities of extravagant welcome.

JUNETEENTH CONCERT AND CELEBRATION, Friday, June 14, 4:00-10:00, Downtown Iowa City. Royceann's Soul Food, Spoken Word, Fashion Show, Shining Star (Earth Wind and Fire cover band). More information about this event will be in the June newsletter.

MISSION BOARD MEMBERS ARE INVITING YOU TO PARTICIPATE WITH THEM AND OTHER CHURCH MEMBERS AT THE IOWA CITY PRIDE FESTIVAL EVENTS ON SATURDAY, JUNE 15. There are sign-up sheets posted in Rockwood Hall with opportunities to be in the *parade* and work at the *booth*. Please join us as we celebrate diversity and support the LGBTQ+ community. If you have ideas, interest or concerns, visit with any of the LGBTQ+ subcommittee members: Hope Spragg, Linda Muston, Julie Wittig, Dianne Atkins, Rebecca Weatherford, Martha Ann Crawford or Carson Fixmer.

PLAN NOW FOR THE CHURCH PICNIC, SUNDAY, JUNE 23. Bring your family, bring your friends, and join us on Sunday, June 23, at Shelter 12 in Lower City Park from 4-7 p.m. Restrooms and parking are near the shelter. Our Membership Board will provide drinks and dessert. Please bring a dish to share and your own plates and tableware. You're welcome to bring games and play equipment, musical instruments, lawn chairs, and anything else that will make for a happy gathering.

THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD IS ACTIVELY SEARCHING FOR A NEW DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION. A complete job description is posted on the church website. Advertising will commence by the end of March. Members of the congregation are encouraged to spread the word and have interested persons contact Rev. William Lovin uccirev@uccic.org and Sally Strang sallystrang@mchsi.com.

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.

ANOTHER WAY TO HELP THE HOMELESS: Trinity United Methodist Church of Riverside Iowa has purchased a loom and is using clean, plastic bags to construct Sleeping Mats for the homeless. These are lightweight, waterproof, and easy to pack and carry. By contributing our clean, plastic bags, we can help them help others. Bring your clean, unneeded, plastic grocery bags, or trash bags, any color, any size, here, to Rockwood Hall. We will see to it that they are delivered.

THE NEXT BIG TABLE EVENT sponsored by Center for Worker Justice will be held at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church on May 31, from 6-7 pm. Food from a Mediterranean/ Middle Eastern menu will be prepared by two amazing chefs. Please invite friends and families. CWJ Suggested donation \$15/person register at <https://t.ly/alJIO>

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/154m7852>. The recordings remain up permanently, so you can watch past worship services at your convenience or recommend them to a friend.