

Confirmation 2024

*Respecting Questions
Seeking Understanding*



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

WORSHIP FOR JUNE 2, 2024
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

Today is a communion Sunday. If you are worshipping with us online, before joining the worship service, you are invited to get whatever you eat and whatever you 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.

“He comes to us as One unknown, without a name, as of old, by the lakeside, He came to those who knew Him not. He speaks to us the same words: ‘Follow me!’ and sets us to the tasks which He has to fulfill for our time. He commands. And to those who obey Him, whether they be wise or simple, He will reveal himself in the toils, the conflicts, the sufferings which they shall pass through in His fellowship, and, as an ineffable mystery, they shall learn in their own experience Who He is.”

Albert Schweitzer

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Andrea Rauer, Liturgist

CHORAL INTROIT

* CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 100)
Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.
Worship the Lord with gladness,
come into God’s presence with singing.

**Enter the gates with thanksgiving,
and God’s courts with praise.**

Give thanks and bless God’s name.

For the Lord is good;

**God’s steadfast love endures forever,
and God’s faithfulness to all generations.**

* HYMN 285 (vs. 1 & 2) “God, You Spin the Whirling Planets”

**God, You spin the whirling planets,
Fill the sea and spread the plain,
Mold the mountains, fashion blossoms,
Call forth sunshine, wind, and rain.
We, created in Your image,
Would a true reflection be
Of Your justice, grace, and mercy
And the truth that makes us free.**

**You have called us to be faithful
In our life and ministry.
We respond in grateful worship
Joined in one community.
When we blur Your gracious image,
Focus us and make us whole.
Healed and strengthened as Your people,
We move onward toward Your goal.**

* OPENING PRAYER

We give you thanks, O God, for bringing us together in community.

**We are grateful for the people who gather with us
and magnify your presence.**

**Hear the sighs of your people who bring
their weariness and distress, their hopes and dreams.
Open a pathway forward.**

**Send us your Spirit.
Renew our imagination and strength
to follow in your wonderful and unexpected ways.**

**Let the energy of this time
stream into the world
as you send us out to be signs of your love. Amen.**

*** CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#285, vs. 3)
God, your word is still creating, calling us to life made new.
Now reveal to us fresh vistas where there's work to dare and do.
Keep us clear of all distortion. Polish us with loving care.
Thus, new creatures in your image, we'll proclaim Christ everywhere.**

THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION

Introductory Words

Introductions by Sponsors

Questions for the Confirmands

*Owning of the Covenant

**We covenant with one another to seek and respond to the Word and will of God. We
purpose to walk together in the ways of Jesus Christ, made known and to be made
known to us. We hold it to be the mission of the Church to witness to the gospel of
Jesus Christ in all the world, while worshipping God, and striving for truth, justice,
and peace. As did our forebears, we depend on the Holy Spirit to lead and empower
us. We pray for the coming of the reign of God, and we look with faith toward the
triumph of righteousness and eternal life.**

Charge to the Confirmands

Welcome by the Congregation

**We promise you our continuing friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and
labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we
continue to grow in the knowledge and love of God and be witnesses of our risen
Savior.**

Prayer

ANTHEM "For the Beauty of the Earth" John Rutter

SERVICE OF GIVING

Invitation

Offertory

*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

(The children are dismissed to Children's Church)

SCRIPTURE LESSON Ecclesiastes 3:9-15

SCRIPTURE LESSON Mark 1:16-20, 40-42

SERMON "Our Busy Lives"

THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

HYMN "As We Gather at Your Table"

**As we gather at your table,
As we listen to your word,
Help us know, O God, your presence;
Let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story
Till we claim it as our own;
Teach us through this holy banquet
How to make Love's victory known.**

**Turn our worship into witness
In the sacrament of life;
Send us forth to love and serve you,
Bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion
To forgive as you forgave;
May we still behold your image
In the world you died to save.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND SHARING OF ELEMENTS

(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, everyone is invited to the table, regardless of church membership or denominational affiliation.)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Thank you, God, for the gladness in this bread and cup,
for love that cannot die, for peace the world cannot give,
for joy in the company of friends, for the splendors of creation,
and for the mission of justice you have made our own.**

**Give us the gifts of this holy communion --
oneness of heart, love for neighbors, forgiveness of enemies,
and the will to serve you all the days of our lives.**

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

* HYMN 419 "How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord"

**How clear is our vocation, Lord,
when once we heed your call:
to live according to your Word,
and daily learn, refreshed, restored,
that you are Lord of all
and will not let us fall.**

**But if, forgetful, we should find
your yoke is hard to bear;
if worldly pressures fray the mind,
and love itself cannot unwind
its tangled skein of care:
our inward life repair.**

**We mark your saint, how they became
in hindrances more sure,
whose joyful virtues put to shame
the casual way we wear your name
and by our faults obscure
your power to cleanse and cure.**

**In what you give us, Lord, to do,
together or alone,
in old routines and ventures new,
may we not cease to look to you,
the cross you hung upon—
all you endeavored done.**

*BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

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Prayer after Communion from First Church (UCC) in Cambridge, MA.

Minister:	The Rev. Bill Lovin
Organist:	Bill Crouch
Choir Director	Dr. Chris Nakielski
Office Manager	Jenn Harden

TODAY

- ❖ Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am
- Worship Service--Confirmation 10:15 am

TUESDAY

- ❖ Membership Board 5:30 pm
- Mission Board 7:00 pm

NEXT SUNDAY

- ❖ Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am
- Worship Service 10:15 am

THIS MORNING WE ARE CONFIRMING Colin Beerends, Dylan Beerends, Izzy Brown, Ella Lewis, Jasper Morton, Noam Morton, Tyler Seidl, and Nadia Spragg and welcoming them into full membership in our congregation.

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

THE FLOWERS IN MAY are to honor all the mothers who have lost loved ones to suicide or accidental overdose, and are in Memory of Peter Fieselmann and Zachary Aschoff.

THE MEMBERS OF BETHEL A.M.E. CHURCH INVITE EVERYONE TO JOIN THEM FOR A VIEWING OF THE NEW DOCUMENTARY, RACIALISM AND THE MEDIA, Friday, June 7, 5:30pm E105 Adler Bldg. (UI campus). Based on 25 years of research by Dr. Venise Berry, this documentary explores the connection between media, African Americans, and popular culture. Venise is a professor in Journalism and African American Studies at the University of Iowa in Iowa City. Steven Berry, professor emeritus from Howard

University's film department, will also be present. The event will be followed by a discussion and reception. Parking is available in lot 3 behind the UI Main Library.

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 uccicrev@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.