

For I don't want to



this race in vain, race in vain.

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

WORSHIP FOR AUGUST 11, 2024
TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Today is a communion Sunday. If you are worshiping 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.

“Give me summer weather in my heart.”

--Puritan prayer

PRELUDE “Cantabile” Lani Smith

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, you who are looking for God in the world and in your life
and you who tremble at what you see or who have given up the search.

**With mind and soul, body and spirit
we will seek God while God may be found
and call upon God, who is near.**

Bring your songs and your sighs.
Peace, restoration, and new strength awaits.

We will worship the God who creates, redeems and sustains.

* HYMN 288 “I Sing the Mighty Power of God”

**I sing the mighty power of God
That made the mountains rise;
That spread the flowing seas abroad
And built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained
The sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at God’s command,
And all the stars obey.**

**I sing the goodness of the Lord
That filled the earth with food;
God formed the creatures with a word
And then pronounced them good.
Lord, how Thy wonders are displayed,
Where’er I turn my eyes;
If I survey the ground I tread,
Or gaze upon the skies!**

**There’s not a plant or flower below
But makes Thy glories known;
And clouds arise, and tempests blow,
By order from Thy throne;
While all that borrows life from Thee
Is ever in Thy care,
And everywhere that we can be,
Thou, God, art present there.**

* OPENING PRAYER

O God, we rejoice in the splendor of these summer days. In their beauty and joy, you provide for us and sustain us, even when events overshadow our lives. We give thanks that you have carried us through many difficult days and past many hard obstacles this summer long. Now the year begins to turn towards a new season when life will be busy and new tasks will be given to us. Holy Spirit, help us to keep in body and mind the energy of this time so we can cope with the transitions and unexpected turns our lives may take. Give us strength and endurance to face whatever challenges we may encounter in the coming days. Keep us open to the needs of others and remind us you call us to be present to the suffering in the world. Continue to be with us and guide us as we seek to live out our faith. Amen.

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#470, vs. 3)

**This day God’s people, meeting, The Holy Scripture hear;
Christ’s living presence greeting, Through bread and wine made near.**

**We journey on believing, renewed with heavenly might,
From grace more grace receiving On this blest day of light.**

DUET Songs of Peace: "When a Poor One" and "O Day of Peace"
Rachel Burchett and Loralyn Hogue

SERVICE OF GIVING

Invitation

Offertory "Prelude in D Major," Op. 48 No. 3 Josef Renner

*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 Isaiah 40:28-31

PSALM 103

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

**Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all the benefits of the Lord,**

who forgives all your sins

and heals all your infirmities;

**who redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;**

who satisfies you with good things,

and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

**The Lord executes righteousness
and judgment for all who are oppressed.**

To Moses were made known God's ways

and to the children of Israel the works of the Lord.

**The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and of great kindness.**

The Lord will not always accuse us

nor remain angry forever.

**The Lord has not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.**

For as the heavens are high above the earth,

so is the Lord's mercy great upon the God-fearing.

**As far as the east is from the west,
so far has the Lord removed our sins from us.**

Bless the Lord, all you works of God,

in all places of God's dominion;
bless the Lord, O my soul.

SCRIPTURE LESSON I Corinthians 9:24-27

SERMON “Strength for the Days Ahead”

THE LORD’S SUPPER

INVITATION

HYMN 516 (vs. 1 & 3) “Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation”
**Lord, we have come at your own invitation,
chosen by you, to be counted as friends:
yours is the strength that sustains our vocation,
ours a commitment we know never ends.**

**When, at your table, each time of returning,
vows are renewed, and our courage restored:
may we increasingly glory in learning
all that it means to accept you as Lord.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

REMEMBRANCE

**Because this is the table of Christ, there are no strangers.
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.**

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

We give thanks to you, O God, for what we have received here today. Let us reach out with open hands to engage the world we find outside these doors and to share with others what we have been given. Amen.

* HYMN 354 “Guide My Feet”
**Guide my feet while I run this race,
Guide my feet while I run this race,**

**Guide my feet while I run this race,
For I don't want to run this race in vain!**

**Hold my hand while I run this race,
Hold my hand while I run this race,
Hold my hand while I run this race,
For I don't want to run this race in vain!**

**Stand by me while I run this race,
Stand by me while I run this race,
Stand by me while I run this race,
For I don't want to run this race in vain!**

**I'm Your child while I run this race,
I'm Your child while I run this race,
I'm Your child while I run this race,
For I don't want to run this race in vain!**

**Search my heart while I run this race,
Search my heart while I run this race,
Search my heart while I run this race,
For I don't want to run this race in vain!**

**Guide my feet while I run this race,
Guide my feet while I run this race,
Guide my feet while I run this race,
For I don't want to run this race in vain!**

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “A Festal Postlude” Colin Mawby

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Minister:
Organist:
Choir Director

The Rev. Bill Lovin
Bill Crouch
Dr. Chris Nakielski

Office Manager

Jenn Harden

TODAY

- ❖ Worship Service 10:15 am

SATURDAY

- ❖ Men's Breakfast—Waterfront HyVee 8:00 am

NEXT SUNDAY

- ❖ Worship Service 10:15 am

YOU CAN HELP US AS WE WELCOME UI STUDENTS FOR THE FALL SEMESTER.

As we did last year, we will welcome the new and returning students on the first day of classes, Monday, August 26. This is a great way to let students know who we are, what we value, and how they might find a spiritual home here while studying at the University.

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