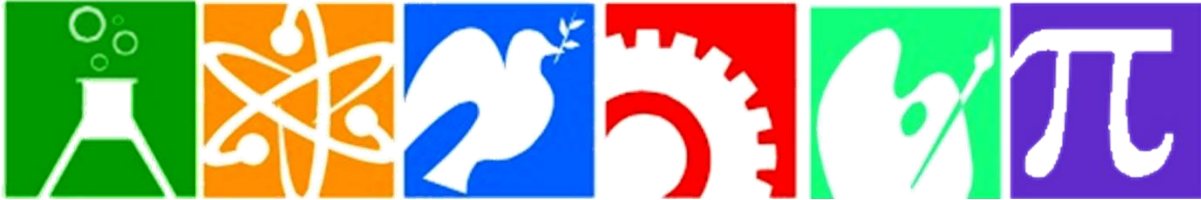


# *SERVICE FOR A TIME OF NEW BEGINNINGS*



## *Sing to the Lord a New Song*

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

WORSHIP FOR AUGUST 25, 2024  
FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

“In the spirit of Christ, we welcome all people into our community of faith. We respect each person’s search for an understanding of the Christian faith and its meaning for our lives and for the issues of today....We affirm the responsibility of the Church in each generation to make this faith its own.”

From our church’s constitution

PRELUDE “Andante espressivo,” Op. 55 No. 17 Flor Peeters

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Hope Spragg, Liturgist

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

“The earth is God's and all that is in it  
**The world, and those who live in it.”**

Whether we know it or not

**God is present.**

For we are made in God’s image

**and gather in God’s name.**

**Let us worship God.**

\*HYMN 458 “Earth and All Stars”

**Earth and all stars, Loud rushing planets  
Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Hail, wind, and rain, Loud blowing snowstorm  
Sing to the Lord a new song!**

**God has done marvelous things.  
We will sing praises with a new song!**

**Steel and machines, Loud pounding hammers  
Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Limestone and beams, Loud building workers  
Sing to the Lord a new song!**

**God has done marvelous things.  
We will sing praises with a new song!**

**Classrooms and labs, Loud boiling test tubes  
Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Athlete and band, Loud cheering people  
Sing to the Lord a new song!**

**God has done marvelous things.  
We will sing praises with a new song!**

**Knowledge and truth, Loud sounding wisdom  
Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Daughter and son, Loud praying members  
Sing to the Lord a new song!**

**God has done marvelous things.  
We will sing praises with a new song!**

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

**We greet you, O God, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, and give you thanks for your steadfast love. We take heart that as we turn to you, you reach out to embrace us. As we step out onto new paths and take on new ventures, we seek to recognize your providence in the midst of what we do.**

**Give us clear sight to see the way ahead and courage to take the steps leading forward. Help us to make good use even of our hesitations and missteps. Transform our efforts into your desired ends.**

**When we are tempted to be foolhardy, give us wisdom in our choices. When we are guarded, give us confidence in our actions. Let us be mindful of others, how our choices affect them and how we may live in harmony with them. Grant us each day a sense of your presence and let it carry, protect, and encourage us; through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#482)

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the God of creation!  
All that has life and breath, sing out your heart's jubilation!  
Let the Amen sound from God's people again;  
joining in glad adoration.**

DUET            "Ave Verum"            Karl Jenkins  
                         Marie Von Behren and Collette Nakielski

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.**

SERVICE OF GIVING

A

Invitation

Offertory        "Andantino," Op. 55 No. 18 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        Isaiah 43:18-21

PSALM 86

Incline your ear, O God, and answer me,  
for I am poor and needy.

**Keep watch over my life, for I am faithful;  
save your servant, for I put my trust in you.**

Be merciful to me, for you are my God;  
I call upon you all the day long.

**Gladden the soul of your servant,  
for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.**

For you, O God, are good and forgiving,  
and great is your love toward all who call upon you.

**Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer,  
and attend to the voice of my supplications.**

In the time of my trouble I will call upon you,  
for you will answer me.

**Among the gods there is none like you, O Lord,  
nor anything like your works.**

All nations you have made will come and worship you, O Lord,  
and glorify your name.

**For you are great;  
you do wondrous things;  
and you alone are God.**

Turn to me and have mercy upon me;  
give your strength to your servant;  
and save the child of your servant.

**Show me a sign of your favor.  
You, O God, have helped me and comforted me.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON      I John 3:2-3

SERMON                  “Using This New Beginning”

\* HYMN 285              “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.**

**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.**

POSTLUDE "Andante con moto," Op. 55 No. 9 Flor Peeters

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

TODAY

❖ Worship Service 10:15 am

MONDAY

❖ Student Welcome 11:00 am-1:00 pm

TUESDAY

❖ Church Council 7:00 pm

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.

**RALLY DAY** is Sunday, September 8th beginning at 9:15AM. We will provide class assignments and have crafts, games and refreshments! **PARENTS:** please provide the following information (one form for each child) and bring it with you to Rally Day!

Child's Name:

Birthday:

Grade:

School:

Parent or Guardian Name

E-mail address:

\*Please also include health restrictions or other information that will be helpful for the classroom teachers to know.

Any questions or concerns? Please contact Sally Strang at: [sallystrang@mchsi.com](mailto:sallystrang@mchsi.com).

**SECRETS OF THE CHURCH KITCHEN REVEALED!** Mysteries of the kitchen unlocked! Please join us for a kitchen orientation on Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 AM.

- Discover where all the silverware is.
- View our collection of dinner plates.
- Is there really a place for the condiments?

Find out—and amaze your friends.

And of course, coffee pots for every occasion.

Please sign up on the sheet in Rockwood Hall. And while you're there you can volunteer to greet, usher or host hospitality. Don't let this opportunity pass you by.

**HOPE LODGE:** Our next Hope Lodge dinner will be Monday, September 16. If you would like to participate, see the sign-up sheet in Rockwood Hall. If you have questions contact Sue Dayton [cdayton7@mchsi.com](mailto:cdayton7@mchsi.com)

**YOU CAN HELP WITH THE FREE LUNCH PROGRAM IN SEPTEMBER:** Members of Congregational UCC serve at the Free Lunch Program on the fifth Monday of any month. Our next serving date is September 30 and if you are interested in helping in any way, please contact Vicki Thomae at [vickithomae@gmail.com](mailto:vickithomae@gmail.com).

**PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR OUR PROGRESSIVE DINNER** on Saturday, October 5, 2024. Ray and Linda Muston and Bill Dickinson will host appetizers for everyone at Oaknoll. Then, in small groups of 8 to 12, we will go to other homes for the catered dinner. After dinner, we will gather at Steve and Sue Wolken's home for dessert. This is always a special event for fellowship. Please make plans to join us.

**RUTH KUNTZ IS WITH HER SON, DAVID, WHILE HE IS RECOVERING FROM SURGERY.** If you would like to send Ruth a letter or card, please contact the church office for her address.

**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.

**SCREENING OF GOD AND COUNTRY—THIS AFTERNOON, SUNDAY, AUGUST 25, AT 3:00 p.m.:** A group of people from various religious communities in Johnson County have come together in recent weeks to plan and sponsor free public screenings of the documentary *God and Country*. From producer Rob Reiner, *God and Country* examines the implications of Christian nationalism and how it distorts not only our constitutional republic but Christianity itself. Through the voices of prominent leaders, constitutional scholars, and journalists, the film asks the question: "What happens when a faith built on love, sacrifice, and forgiveness grows political tentacles, conflating power, money, and belief into hyper-nationalism."

There are two free screenings of *God and Country*:

- Sunday, August 25 @ 3:00 p.m. at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church (140 Gathering Place Ln, Iowa City). The movie will be followed by a discussion led by Connie Ryan of Iowa Interfaith Alliance.
- Sunday, September 8 @ 2:00 p.m. at the Iowa City Public Library. A discussion will follow.

**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.