



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

WORSHIP FOR SEPTEMBER 8, 2024
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST

Welcome to Congregational UCC. We are glad that you are here this morning. While we affirm that God speaks to us in many ways, we ask that you silence your cell phone as you enter the sanctuary. Please use the time during the prelude to quietly prepare for worship.

“Do not take for granted what we do here, for what we do here is most unusual, most uncommon, most outside the box. The language that we use is archaic and imprecise, it comes from a world both far removed from our own and at times difficult for most of us to imagine. It is a peculiar thing that we do to speak of God in this place.”

Peter Gomes

PRELUDE “Intermezzo” Wm. Lloyd Webber

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS John Fieselmann, Liturgist

CHORAL INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Beside the flowing river and beneath the wide sky,
we gather to praise God who sustains all living things.
At this very corner, we come together
bringing all that we are to worship God.

* HYMN 267 All Things Bright and Beautiful”

Refrain:

**All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,**

**All things wise and wonderful:
The Lord God made them all.**

**Each little flower that opens,
Each little bird that sings:
God made their glowing colors,
God made their tiny wings. (Refrain)**

**The purple-headed mountain,
The river running by,
The sunset, and the morning
That brightens up the sky, (Refrain)**

**The cold wind in the winter,
The pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden,
God made them every one. (Refrain)**

**God gave us eyes to see them,
And lips that we might tell
How great is God Almighty,
Who has made all things well. (Refrain)**

***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 (483, vs. 4)**

**Thus, all my gladsome way along,
I sing aloud Thy praises
That all may hear the grateful song
My voice unwearied raises.
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart,**

**Both soul and body bear your part:
To God all praise and glory!**

ANTHEM “Behold the House of God” Richard Proulx

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 “Invocation” Alan Ridout

*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 Choir)

SCRIPTURE LESSON Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

PSALM 78:1-7

Hear my teaching, O my people;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

**I will open my mouth in a parable;
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.**

That which we have heard and known,
and what our ancestors have told us,
we will not hide from their children.

**We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord,**

and the wonderful works God has done.

God set up decrees for Jacob
and established a law for Israel,
commanding them to teach it to their children;
**that the generations to come might know,
that they in their turn might tell it to their children;**

[Unison]

**so that they might put their trust in God,
and not forget the deeds of God,
but keep God's commandments;**

SCRIPTURE LESSON II Corinthians 14:15

What should I do then? I will pray with the spirit, but I will pray with the mind also; I will sing praise with the spirit, but I will sing praise with the mind also.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 11:28-30

Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

SERMON

*HYMN 420 “God of Grace and God of Glory”

**God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your power;
crown your ancient church's story,
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.**

**Lo! the hosts of evil round us
scorn the Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.**

**Cure your children's warring madness;
bend our pride to your control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal.**

**Set our feet on lofty places;
Gird our lives that they may be
Armored with all Christ-like graces,
Pledged to set all captives free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
That we fail not them nor Thee!
That we fail not them nor Thee!**

**Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
let the gift of your salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore**

BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE “Recessional” Colin Mawby

Minister:	The Rev. Bill Lovin
Interim Director of CE	Hope Spragg
Organist:	Bill Crouch
Choir Director	Dr. Chris Nakielski
Children’s Choir Director	Rachel Burchett
Office Manager	Jenn Harden

WE’RE GLAD THAT YOU ARE WORSHIPPING WITH US THIS MORNING.

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

TODAY

❖ Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am
Christian Education Program Begins	9:15 am
Worship Service	10:15 am
Choir Roundup	After Worship

TUESDAY

❖ Mission Board	7:00 pm
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NEXT SUNDAY

❖ Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am
Christian Education for All Ages	9:15 am
Worship Service	10:15 am

SECRETS OF THE CHURCH KITCHEN REVEALED! Mysteries of the kitchen unlocked! Please join us for a kitchen orientation on Saturday, September 28 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

THE FIRST GATHERING OF COLLEGE STUDENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS will be in late September. Watch for the date. People who have signed up have said they are looking for a place to talk about how current life is going and to share a meal—so that's what we'll do at the first gathering. If you would like to sign up and get more information, look for the table downstairs.

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.

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.

FALL DIAPER DRIVE FOR COMMUNITY FOOD BANK: The Mission Board is holding a diaper drive in **September and October** to help the Food Bank replenish its supply of diapers for families in need. The Food Bank relies on donations for non-food items such as disposable diapers. Please help babies and toddlers in our community stay dry, clean, and healthy by participating in the diaper drive. **Diaper sizes 3, 4, 5, and 6 are the most needed as well as baby wipes.** There are two ways you can help. Buy a package of disposable diapers and wipes and bring them to Rockwood Hall. We will ensure that everything is delivered to the Food Bank. Or, if you would like to make a personal donation to support this drive, please write a check to the church with Diaper Drive on the memo line and the Mission Board will use the funds to purchase diapers. Whichever way you choose, your donation will help restock the Food Bank's diaper supply, provide free diapers for babies and toddlers in need and bring some economic relief to families.

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, SEPTEMBER 8 AT 2:00 p.m., Iowa City Public Library: 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."

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.