



He is  
Risen!



THE CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
IOWA CITY, IOWA

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE  
APRIL 5, 2026

CALL TO WORSHIP

Across our world Easter dawns.

**It shines a gentle light on our uncertain journeys  
and invites us to find once more the God who is among us  
and is making all things new.**

\*HYMN 469      “Morning Has Broken”

SCRIPTURE LESSON      John 20:1, 11-18

EASTER ACCLAMATION

Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen, indeed!**

\*HYMN      “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”

**1. “Christ the Lord is risen today, “Alleluia!  
All creation join to say: Alleluia!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high; Alleluia!  
Sing, O heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!**

**2. Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!  
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!  
Death in vain forbids Christ rise, Alleluia!  
God has opened paradise, Alleluia!**

**3. Hail, the Lord of earth and heaven! Alleluia!  
Praise to You by both be given; Alleluia!  
Every knee to You shall bow, Alleluia!  
Risen Christ, triumphant now. Alleluia!**

**4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!  
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!  
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!  
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!**

\*GREET ONE ANOTHER

EASTER PRAYER

**God of dawn and new beginnings, we celebrate this day with joy.  
We give you thanks for all that we are and all that we will become.  
We thank you for all good things-  
for the air that we breathe,  
for the ground on which we walk,  
and for our very being, body and soul,  
that makes us who we are.**

**You, O God, are our companion, our center, our friend.  
We thank you for all those who share our life with us  
and all those with whom we share this life on earth.**

**We recognize the measure of freedom we have to share each other's burdens,  
seek justice, and increase the good.**

**Help us to carry the joy and power of resurrection with us every day. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON II Corinthians 5:17-18

REFLECTION "Jesus in the Guise of a Gardener"

\*HYMN 311 "We Meet You O Christ"

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

\*HYMN 469 (vs. 1 & 2) "Morning Has Broken" reprise

Questions for Candidate  
Questions for Congregation  
Prayer  
Baptism of Renn Morton

Congregational Response (#108, vs. 5)  
**Christ is alive, and comes to bring  
Good news in this and every age,  
Till earth and sky and ocean ring  
With joy, with justice, love, and praise.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray:

Help us, O risen Christ, to proclaim your resurrection,  
**by bringing good news to the poor  
and by bringing release to the captives.**

Help us, O risen Christ, to proclaim your resurrection,  
**by feeding the hungry  
and sheltering the homeless.**

Help us, O risen Christ, to proclaim your resurrection,  
**by being stewards of this planet earth  
and caring for creation.**

Help us, O risen Christ, to proclaim your resurrection,  
**by welcoming the stranger  
and seeking out the lonely.**

Help us, O risen Christ, to proclaim your resurrection,  
**by bringing your help to those who are in trouble  
and your joy to those who are in sorrow.**

Help us to understand that we conquer our own death and rise with you today when we live in love. Amen.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### THE SERVICE OF GIVING

Invitation

Offertory

\*Doxology

**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

**All good gifts come from you, O God.  
Accept this offering from your people.  
May it be used to bring about new beginnings.  
May it be part of your work of making all things new. Amen.**

\*HYMN 118 (vs. 3)      “The Day of Resurrection!”

#### BENEDICTION

When you find yourself lost and confused,

**May you hear Christ calling your name.**

As you venture on uncertain paths,

**May you find Christ in others on the journey with you.**

In times of wondering and doubt,

**May you feel Christ’s patient reassurance through the presence of those around you.**

The promises of resurrection are for you and for all you meet.

**May God’s love shine on you and all you encounter.**

#### Unison

**Christ is risen!**

**Christ is risen, indeed!**

**Amen!**

#### POSTLUDE

The members of the Confirmation Class are leading worship this morning:

Lily Lewis

Renn Morton

Peter Spragg

Bulletin cover created by Lily Lewis.

Thanks to Rachel Burchett for playing guitar and lending her voice.

Thanks to Bill Crouch for playing organ and piano—and for being the consummate professional who adapts, improvises, and accommodates last-minute changes.

Thanks to John Johnson and Shirley Woolums for live-streaming the service.

Everyone is invited to breakfast in Rockwood Hall after our worship.