



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

WORSHIP FOR JANUARY 11, 2026
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

PRELUDE “Prière” César Franck

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kathi Koegle, Liturgist

CHORAL INTROIT

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Come and worship the God of returning light,
the God who refills the seas,

the God who infuses the earth with the brilliance of light held in water.

[Unison]

Let us worship God.

*** HYMN 265 “Great God, We Sing That Might Hand”**

**Great God, we sing that mighty hand
By which supported still we stand;
The opening year Your mercy shows;
That mercy crowns it till it close.**

**With grateful hearts the past we own;
The future, all to us unknown,
We to Your guardian care commit,
And peaceful leave before Your feet.**

**In scenes exalted or depressed,
You are our joy, and You our rest;**

**Your goodness all our hopes shall raise,
Adored through all our changing days.**

***OPENING PRAYER**

We turn to you, O God, for we are a people entangled in many crises. Help us to find our way out of this maze of anger, confusion, fear, and dread. Light the path that will guide us. Lead us to the wellsprings that will calm us. Nourish us in our hope for the future.

Let us walk humbly with you, speaking with courage, acting with compassion, and using your gifts of reason and common sense to make our way forward. Guide us past mistaken turns and dead ends, and bring us into an open and broad place where we can see beyond ourselves to our common humanity and the vision of well-being you have for your whole creation. Amen.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#161, vs. 1 & 3)**

**As morning dawns, Lord, hear our cry.
O sovereign God, now hear our sigh.
As first light brings the sun's warm rays,
Accept our sacrifice of praise.**

**Your steadfast love shall welcome all
Who seek Your house and on Your call.
O lead us, Lord, in righteousness,
As though this day Your name we bless.**

ANTHEM "Follow Me to Jordan" Jay Althouse

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 "Andantino" César Franck

*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 Matthew 3:13-17

PSALM 29

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

**Ascribe to the Lord the glory that is due the holy name;
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.**

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;
the God of glory thunders;
the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

**The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice;
the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.**

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees;
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

**the Lord makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

The voice of the Lord splits the flames of fire;
the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

**The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe
and strips the forests bare.**

And in the temple of the Lord
all are crying, "Glory!"

**The Lord sits enthroned above the flood;
the Lord sits enthroned as Sovereign forevermore.**

[Unison]

**The Lord shall give strength to the chosen people;
the Lord shall give the people the blessing of peace.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 12:43-45

*HYMN 474 "O Splendor of God's Glory Bright"

**O splendor of God's glory bright,
From light eternal bringing light;
Thou light of life, light's living spring,
True day, all days illumining.**

**Come, Holy Sun of heavenly love,
Shower down Thy radiance from above,
And to our inward hearts convey
The Holy Spirit's cloudless ray.**

**O joyful be the passing day
With thoughts as clear as morning's ray,
With faith like noontide shining bright,
Our souls unshadowed by the night.**

**O Lord, with each returning morn
Thine image to our hearts is born;
O may we ever clearly see
Our Savior and our God in Thee!**

SERMON "In Over Our Heads"

*HYMN 411 "Arise, Your Light Is Come!"

**Arise, your light has come!
The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God
which shines on you today.**

**Arise, your light has come!
Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captive's liberty,
good tidings to the poor.**

**Arise, your light has come!
All you in sorrow born,
bind up the brokenhearted ones
and comfort those who mourn.**

**Arise, your light has come!
The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing,
God's power will make us strong.**

***BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE "Sortie – Jacques Lemmens

"Arise, Your Light is Come!" Ruth Duck, Words - ©1992 GIA Publications, Inc. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-715458. All rights reserved.

Minister:	The Rev. Bill Lovin
Director of Christian Education:	Hope Spragg
Organist:	Bill Crouch
Choir Director	Dr. Chris Nakielski
Children's Choir Director	Rachel Burchett

❖ Choir Rehearsal	TODAY
Christian Education for All Ages	9:00 am
Worship Service	9:15 am
Coffee Hour	10:15 am
Confirmation Class	After Worship
	4:00 pm

❖ No Gentle Yoga This Week	TUESDAY
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❖ Zoom Bible Study	WEDNESDAY
	7:00 pm

❖ Prairie Piffari Rehearsal	THURSDAY
	6:30 pm

❖ Choir Rehearsal	NEXT SUNDAY
	9:00 am

Christian Education for All Ages	9:15 am
Worship Service	10:15 am
Coffee Hour	After Worship

WE'RE GLAD THAT YOU HAVE JOINED US FOR WORSHIP THIS MORNING. Everyone is invited to Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall after worship.

OUR MISSION BOARD IS SPONSORING THE ADULT FORUM THROUGH FEBRUARY 22, EXPLORING LOCAL IMMIGRATION ISSUES. Our scheduled speakers are:

- January 18: Jerilyn McCarty
- January 25: Stella and Brahm Elias, University of Iowa School of Law
- February 1: Sheriff Brad Kunkel
- February 8: Deb Dunkase, Open Heartland
- February 15: Alejandra Escobar, Escucha Mi Voz
- February 22: Discussion Sunday

This series promises to be informative and interactive, addressing timely and important topics. We hope you will join us.

HOPE LODGE: Our next Hope Lodge dinner will be tomorrow, Monday, January 12. If you would like to contribute to the meal see the signup sheet posted in Rockwood Hall.

THERE WILL BE NO YOGA THIS TUESDAY, JANUARY 13. Regular classes resume Tuesday, January 20 at noon—we meet in the upstairs classroom. If you have questions or are yoga-curious, please reach out to Hope. We'd love to have you try a class!

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY BEGINS ON JANUARY 14: The winter months provide a great opportunity to meet and study together—all in the comfort of our homes! Join us for a Zoom Bible Study of Paul's Letter to the Galatians. We'll meet on Zoom from 7:00-8:30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings from January 14-February 11. Bill Lovin will lead the study. Because we'll be on Zoom, we expect to see local people and friends from other parts of the world. Let Bill know that you're interested (319-337-4301 or uccicrev@uccic.org) and he'll send you the link.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST WILL BE HELD AT 11:30 A.M. ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, in the sanctuary, following our 10:15 worship service. We will receive reports of Boards and Committees, vote on the budget for 2026, and transact any other business that is fitting and necessary. Copies of the annual report will be available by Sunday, January 11.

CHURCH PHOTO DIRECTORY: Our Membership Board is creating an "in house" photo directory to help everyone put names and faces together. If you have a photo that you would like us to use, please email it to Jenn Harden at uccicadmin@uccic.org. John Johnson will be taking photos after worship this morning.

BETHEL AME CHURCH/EAST UNION MENNONITE CHURCH PRESENTS DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.—CELEBRATION 2026: "What Would Dr. King Say?" Monday, January 19, 2026, 2:00 p.m., Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, 411 South Governor Street, Iowa City. Speaker: Tiffini Stevenson Earl, JD. Musical Selections: Bethel A.M.E. Choir, East Union Mennonite Choir, Ms. Dianna Penny, Cindy Shaw and much more. Everyone is invited!

USED MEDICINE BOTTLES NEEDED FOR REUSE IN CLINICS: 100 Grannies, a local environmental activist group, is sending used plastic medicine bottles to Africa to assist clinics in distributing medication. Donna Hirst is in charge of this project and would be pleased to have participation from members of the congregation. If you are interested, the labels from the plastic bottles need to be removed, and the bottles

need to be washed in soapy water. More information will be in the church newsletter. Donna will pick up bottles on Sundays.

CYCLING WITHOUT AGE AT THE BIKE LIBRARY offers free e-assisted bike rides originating from the Ashton House and looping through City Park. If you or someone you know would benefit from this "ride through the park" as a passenger, see the sign-up in Rockwood Hall or talk to Hope Spragg to arrange a ride. More info available at: <https://icbikelibrary.org/cycling-without-age!>

CARBON OFFSET HELPS HABITAT FOR HUMANITY: Have you ever wanted to compensate for CO2 emissions from a flight or other carbon intensive activity? Carbon offsets are a recognized way to make an activity carbon neutral. Carbon offsets are also often viewed with skepticism due to concerns about whether the money given is truly decreasing carbon emissions and whether the action would have happened without the donation.

Those concerns can be assuaged with a donation to put solar arrays on Habitat for Humanity homes. The homeowners do not have the resources to make an upfront investment in a solar array and once installed the system is likely to stay in place for the lifetime of the panels. In addition to reducing CO2 emissions the donor would be helping a low income Iowa family with their energy bills.

To estimate your flight emissions and send an offset to Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity go to www.habitatsolar.org/. Please contact Jamie McCoy or see the bulletin board in Rockwood Hall for more information.

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/1547852>. The recordings remain up permanently, so you can watch past worship services at your convenience or recommend them to a friend.