



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

WORSHIP FOR JANUARY 21, 2024
THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
THE REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. SUNDAY

“The end is reconciliation; the end is redemption; the end is the creation of the Beloved Community. It is this type of spirit and this type of love that can transform opposers into friends. It is this type of understanding goodwill that will transform the deep gloom of the old age into the exuberant gladness of the new age.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

PRELUDE “Deep River” arr. Mark Hayes

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tina Koepnick, Liturgist

CHORAL INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Trinity UCC, Chicago)

Beautiful are the works of God!

Beautiful also are the skins of God's people!

Beautiful is the mind of God!

Beautiful also are the hopes of God's people!

Beautiful is the heart of God!

Beautiful also are the souls of God's people!

God made the heavens and the earth!

To God be the glory for the things God has done.

*HYMN 563 "Lift Every Voice and Sing" James Weldon Johnson, J. Rosamond Johnson

Lift every voice and sing

'Til earth and heaven ring

Ring with the harmonies of Liberty

Let our rejoicing rise

High as the listening skies

Let it resound loud as the rolling sea

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us

Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us

Facing the rising sun of our new day begun

Let us march on 'til victory is won

Stony the road we trod

Bitter the chastening rod

Felt in the days when hope unborn had died

Yet with a steady beat

Have not our weary feet

Come to the place for which our parents sighed?

We have come over a way that with tears has been watered

We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered

Out from the gloomy past

'Til now we stand at last

Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast

God of our weary years

God of our silent tears

Thou who has brought us thus far on the way

Thou who has by Thy might

Led us into the light

Keep us forever in the path, we pray

Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee

Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee

Shadowed beneath Thy hand

May we forever stand

**True to our God
True to our native land**

*OPENING PRAYER (A prayer of Martin Luther King, Jr.)

God, we thank you for the inspiration of Jesus. Grant that we will love you with all our hearts, souls, and minds, and love our neighbors as we love ourselves, even our enemy neighbors. And we ask you, God, in these days of emotional tension, when the problems of the world are gigantic in extent and chaotic in detail, to be with us in our going out and our coming in, in our rising up and in our lying down, in our moments of joy and in our moments of sorrow, until the day when there shall be no sunset and no dawn. Amen.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (411, VS. 1 & 4)

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

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

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 "There Is a Balm in Gilead" arr. Phillip Keveren

*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

(At this time, children are dismissed to attend Children's Church.)

SCRIPTURE LESSON I Samuel 3:1-20

PSALM 139

Lord, you have searched me out and known me;
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.

**You trace my journeys and my resting-places
and are acquainted with all my ways**

Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.

**You press upon me behind and before
and lay your hand upon me.**

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

**Where can I go then from your Spirit?
where can I flee from your presence?**

If I climb up to heaven, you are there;
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.

**If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,**

even there your hand will lead me
and your right hand hold me fast.

**If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me,
and the light around me turn to night,"**

[Unison]

**darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day;
darkness and light to you are both alike.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON John 1:43-51

SERMON "Calling in the Night"

*RESPONSE OF FAITH

[Adapted from the sermon, "Our God Is Able," by Martin Luther King, Jr.]

Let us declare our faith and hope together:

**We believe in God, at work in the world,
transforming death into life.**

**We believe that God is able to change
desolate valleys into paths of joy;
to give tired feet strength
for striding toward the city of freedom;
to create courage in us
for facing the uncertainties of the future,
and to give us power to endure
that which cannot be changed.**

**When our days become dreary,
and our nights darker
than a thousand midnights,**

**we believe that God is able
to make a way out of no way
and transform dark yesterdays into bright tomorrows.
This is our hope for becoming a better people.
This is our hope for making a better world.
Amen! Thanks be to God!**

*** HYMN 289 "O God of Every Nation"**

**O God of every nation,
of every race and land,
redeem the whole creation
with your almighty hand.
Where hate and fear divide us
and bitter threats are hurled,
in love and mercy guide us,
and heal our strife torn world.**

**From search for wealth and power
and scorn of truth and right,
from trust in bombs that shower
destruction through the night,
from pride of race and nation
and blindness to your way,
deliver every nation,
eternal God, we pray!**

**Lord, strengthen those who labor
that all may find release
from fear of rattling saber,
from dread of war's increase.
When hope and courage falter,
Lord, let your voice be heard;
with faith that none can alter,
your servants undergird.**

**Keep bright in us the vision
of days when war shall cease,
when hatred and division
give way to love and peace,
till dawns the morning glorious
when truth and justice reign,
and Christ shall rule victorious
o'er all the world's domain.**

***BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE “Ain-a That Good News!” Setting by John Carter

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TODAY

❖ Church School Breakfast	9:00 am
Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am
Christian Education	9:15 am
Worship Service	10:15 am

NEXT SUNDAY

❖ Church School Breakfast	9:00 am
Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am
Christian Education	9:15 am
Worship Service	10:15 am
Annual Meeting of the Congregation	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.

ADULT EDUCATION CONNECTS WITH IOWA CITY ORGANIZATIONS Join us each Sunday through February 11 around the fireplace in Rockwood Hall at 9:15 a.m. Our Mission Board is helping us develop closer relationships with some of the Iowa City area organizations that we support. Next Sunday, January 28 - Christine Hayes, Director of Development and Communications, Shelter House and Donna Hirst, Mission Board.

ANNUAL MEETING ON JANUARY 28: The Annual Meeting of the Congregational United Church of Christ will be held on Sunday, January 28, in the sanctuary, following our 10:15 worship service. We will receive reports of Boards and Committees, vote on the budget for 2024, and transact any other business that is fitting and necessary. Copies of the annual report were sent out by email to members last week. Hard copies are available this morning.

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.

YOUR CHURCH NOMINATING COMMITTEE is looking for stalwart and generous members to fill remaining board slots. This means we’re looking for you. We still have room on

the diaconate, membership, trustees, and stewardship committees. Please contact either Andrea Rauer or Megan Carnes, if you'd like to volunteer. Andrea Rauer: amrauer@gmail.com
Megan Carnes: carnesmegan@yahoo.com

CONTRIBUTE TO THIS YEAR'S LENTEN DEVOTIONAL: We're inviting members and friends to write a short, one paragraph reflection on a particular Biblical text—we'll provide the text, you'll provide the reflection. If you are interested in being a part of this or have any questions, please contact Bill at uccicrev@uccic.org or call the church office at 337-4301 or call Patte Henderson at 594-7185 or Bryan Clemons at 330-7882. Lent begins on Wednesday, February 14. Easter is Sunday, March 31.

CHOOSE YOUR STAR WORD FOR 2024 from the basket in Rockwood Hall. Your Star Word is a word that you can use as a guiding star to draw you closer to God in the coming year. Randomly choose one of these words quickly and tuck it into your pocket, your wallet, or pin it on a bulletin board, post it on a bathroom mirror, or stick it on the fridge or the dashboard of the car...display the word somewhere where you will see it regularly. Spend some time thinking about how this Star Word reminds you how God is manifest in your life...at this moment. This word is your guiding star for this year, it is inspired by the way God used a star to guide the Magi to Jesus.

THE LGBTQ+ SUPPORT SUBCOMMITTEE IS LOOKING FORWARD to a year of advocating and activism. Join us and mark your calendars for the following dates:

Monday, February 5: Lobby Day at the Capital- All day field trip to Des Moines leaving church @7:15 am, returning early evening. Contact Hope Spragg for a seat in the van and itinerary information. (Must register two weeks in advance to participate in the luncheon at the capital)

Saturday, June 15: Iowa City Pridefest 11:30-4-ish parade and booth shift opportunities will be available.

ANOTHER WAY TO HELP THE HOMELESS: Trinity United Methodist Church of Riverside Iowa has purchased a loom and is using clean, plastic bags to construct Sleeping Mats for the homeless. These are lightweight, waterproof, and easy to pack and carry. By contributing our clean, plastic bags, we can help them help others. Bring your clean, unneeded, plastic grocery bags, or trash bags, any color, any size, here, to Rockwood Hall. We will see to it that they are delivered.

YOU'RE INVITED TO ATTEND THE HEALING PRAIRIE FARM HYGGE OPEN HOUSE ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 27 FROM 2-5 PM: This is your chance to connect with program staff, tour the renovated homes on the farm, meet the animals, and enjoy a one-of-a-kind hygge style event. There will be self-guided tours with a chance to talk to staff from CommUnity Crisis Stabilization Services and United Action for Youth (UAY), warm soup, bonfires, community crafts, and cozy vibes. This will be your one chance to visit before they welcome kids in crisis. Healing Prairie Farm, 5048 US-6, Iowa City. (The old Kinder Farm location)

DO YOU HAVE A CHURCH KEY? We have made new keys and are working at getting a better list of people who have keys. If you have a key to the church, please contact Trustee Chairperson, Kevin Richards, at (608) 807-7195 or at kdrichards1958@gmail.com. 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 or Trustee Chairperson, Kevin Richards, know right away. You can reach Kevin at (608) 807-7195 or at kdrichards1958@gmail.com. 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.