



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

WORSHIP FOR JANUARY 22, 2023  
THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

When we love one another,

**God is with us.**

When we sing and pray,

**God rejoices through us.**

When our spirits are renewed,

**God is at work in us.**

God is present in love, in song, in renewal.

**Let us worship God.**

\*HYMN 364

“I Sing a Song of the Saints of God”

**I sing a song of the saints of God,  
patient and brave and true,  
who toiled and fought and lived and died  
for the Lord they loved and knew.  
And one was a doctor, and one was a queen,  
and one was a shepherdess on the green:  
they were all of them saints of God, and I mean,  
God helping, to be one too.**

**They loved their Lord so dear, so dear,  
and God’s love made them strong;  
and they followed the right, for Jesus’ sake,  
the whole of their good lives long.  
And one was a soldier, and one was a priest,  
and one was slain by a fierce wild beast:  
and there’s not any reason, no, not the least,  
why I shouldn’t be one too.**

**They lived not only in ages past;  
there are hundreds of thousands still;  
the world is bright with the joyous saints  
who love to do Jesus’ will.  
You can meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea,  
in church, or in trains, or in shops, or at tea;  
for the saints of God are just folk like me,  
and I mean to be one too.**

\*OPENING PRAYER

We seek to come into loving relationship with you, our Living God,  
as a parent holds in close embrace a child who is cherished and loved,

**So we are aware of your compassion to us, most caring God.**

As a grandparent models patience and generosity to a grandchild,

**So we are aware of your graciousness to us and all humankind, most giving God.**

As a best friend is able to listen to the deepest longings of heart and soul,

**So we are aware of your heartfelt concern for us, O ever-present God.**

Deepen our relationship with you, Loving God,

**That created in your image and empowered by the example of Jesus Christ, we may  
be enabled to change our small corner of the world, for good. Amen.**

ANTHEM

“Thee Lord, Would I Serve,” Mark Bender

## 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

\*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

**Transformed by Love's gracious undoing, may we be change makers, gentle in our means but strong in our conviction that the way of justice and compassion is truly the way of divine salvation. May we use our efforts and resources to bring your way of justice to the houses in our care and influence this day.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 9:1-4

### PSALM 27:1, 4-7

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

**The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?**

One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.

**For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock.**

Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

**Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me!**

### SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 4:12-23

### SERMON

“The Stories We Tell”

\*HYMN (insert)

“I Love to Tell the Story”

**\*BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE**

**POSTLUDE**

Minister:	The Rev. Bill Lovin
Director of Children's Programs:	The Rev. Ann Molsberry
Organist:	Bill Crouch
Choir Director	Chris Nakielski
Office Manager	Jenn Harden

**WE'RE GLAD THAT YOU HAVE JOINED US FOR WORSHIP THIS MORNING.** We are putting the safety of both the vaccinated and the unvaccinated in our congregation and the community first. Masks are highly recommended. Everyone is invited to Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall after worship.

**WE WELCOME THE REV. BOB MOLSBERY TO OUR WORSHIP THIS MORNING.** Bob is a retired UCC minister and a member of our congregation.

**BILL LOVIN IS TAKING THE WEEKEND OFF AND WILL BE BACK ON MONDAY.**

**THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION OF THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC OF IOWA CITY** will be held in the sanctuary following our worship on Sunday, January 29, 2023. We will receive reports of Boards and Committees, vote on the budget for 2023, and transact any other business that is fitting and necessary.

**HOPE LODGE:** Our next Hope Lodge dinner will be on Monday, January 23. Please see the sign-up sheet in Rockwood Hall if you would like to participate.

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

**STAR WORD-** You are invited to select a Star Word from our bulletin board 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.

**SACRED CONVERSTIONS TO END RACISM:** 1.5 day Intensive Workshop on Zoom, March 24-25. The Congregational UCC Mission Board is sponsoring a 2-day workshop on Zoom for members of the congregation. Our instructor will be Rev. Dr. Velda Love, national UCC Lead for Join the Movement Toward Racial Justice and Minister for Racial Justice. Details can

be found in the Newsletter and periodic Bulletins. If you are interested in registering send an email to: [donna-hirst@uiowa.edu](mailto:donna-hirst@uiowa.edu).

**THE CHURCH COUNCIL IS SEEKING A VOLUNTEER TO SCAN AND ORGANIZE THE HISTORICAL ANNUAL REPORTS.** For more information, please contact the Church office.

**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 [kd Richards1958@gmail.com](mailto:kd Richards1958@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 during January and February. Don't miss your chance. 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.