



Scroll of Isaiah from Qumran

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

WORSHIP FOR JANUARY 23, 2022
THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

“Hope is not logical. It always comes as a surprise, just when you think all hope is lost.”
Anne Lamott

PRELUDE “Prelude in G Major,” BWV 902a J.S. Bach

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, let us worship the Sovereign God,

That we might discern the ways of our Creator.

Come, let us worship the God of light,

That we might recall the freedom which God gives us.

Come, let us worship the God of mercy,

That we might become the people God is calling us to be.

HYMN 602 “Song of Zechariah”

**Blest by the God of Israel,
Who comes to set us free;
Who visits and redeems us,
Who grants us liberty.
The prophets spoke of mercy,
Of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill that promise
And bring the people peace.**

**God from the house of David
A child of grace has given;
A Savior comes among us
To raise us up to heaven.
Before Him goes the herald,
Forerunner in the way,
The prophet of salvation,
The harbinger of day.**

**On those who sit in darkness
The sun begins to rise,
The dawning of forgiveness
Upon the sinner's eyes.
God guides the feet of pilgrims
Along the paths of peace.
O bless our God and Savior
With songs that never cease!**

OPENING PRAYER

**God of unity and diversity,
Creator, Word, and Spirit dancing together in eternal unity and common purpose:
We give you thanks that you invite us to share in the great dance of loving, living
relationship with you and with each other.
We thank you for delighting in each of us and all of us together,
for the vast array of gifts you have given us,
for the variety of ways you spark our human imagination,
for calling us to yourself and naming us “beloved.”
You are the very ground of our being, uniting us in all our glorious diversity.
Open our eyes to see your glory in the dawning light of each day. Open our hearts to be
transformed by your love, embraced in your light, and comforted with your courage,
knowing that you are with us always in the light and in the shadows. Amen.**

TIME OF GRATITUDE

SOLO “O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright” Philipp Nicolai, 1597
Marie Von Behren

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.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 61:1-4

PSALM 146

Hallelujah!

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

I will praise the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any child of earth,
for there is no help in them.

**When they breathe their last, they return to earth,
and in that day their thoughts perish.**

Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help!
whose hope is in the Lord their God;

**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps faith forever;**

who gives justice to those who are oppressed,
and food to those who hunger.

**The Lord sets the prisoners free;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind;**

the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous and cares for the stranger;

**the Lord sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.**

[Unison]

**The Lord shall reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Hallelujah!**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 4:14-21

SERMON “Today”

HYMN 332 “Live into Hope”

**Live into hope of captives freed,
of sight regained, the end of greed.
The oppressed shall be the first to see**

the year of God's own jubilee!

**Live into hope! The blind shall see
with insight and with clarity,
removing shades of pride and fear,
a vision of our God brought near.**

**Live into hope of liberty,
the right to speak, the right to be,
the right to have one's daily bread,
to hear God's word and thus be fed.**

**Live into hope of captives freed
from chains of fear or want or greed.
God now proclaims our full release
to faith and hope and joy and peace.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Fuggetta in G Major,” BWV 902a J.S. Bach

Artwork: Scroll of Isaiah from Qumran, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=54196> [retrieved January 22, 2022]. Original source: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/korephotos/2472547083/>. Used with permission under Creative Commons license <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.0/legalcode>

“Song of Zechariah” (Blessed Be the God of Israel) Words and Music - ©1973 The Jubilate Group, Contributors: Hal H Hopson, Michael Perry. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-715458. All rights reserved.

“Live into Hope,” Contributors: Jane Parker Huber, Text: © 1980 Jane Parker Huber (admin. Westminster John Knox Press) Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-715458. All rights reserved.

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 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. Because of the surge in Covid cases in Johnson County, we are pausing in-person worship today and next Sunday, January 30. The Reopening Committee will meet on Thursday, February 3, to assess the current situation and chart our course forward.

WE ARE NOW LIVE STREAMING 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 will be 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.

FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP SERVICES—If you would like to contribute flowers for the worship services on upcoming Sundays please call the office to let Jenn know or sign up on the sheet in Rockwood Hall.

BOB AND ANN MOLSBERRY INVITE EVERYONE TO JOIN THEIR CELEBRATION OF BOB'S RETIREMENT at a party today, January 23, at 4:00 PM. Because of the surge in Covid cases, this will be a Zoom party. Here's the information:

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85329272050?pwd=NFNoR2N0UUY2Ujh0YTA3YnFJUTA0UT09>

Meeting ID: 853 2927 2050

Passcode: 399272

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION OF THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC OF IOWA CITY will be held following our worship on Sunday, January 30, 2022. We will receive reports of Boards and Committees, vote on the budget for 2022, and transact any other business that is fitting and necessary. This will be a Zoom meeting.

THE MISSION BOARD IS CONTINUING TO WORK ON A RACIAL JUSTICE COURSE for the congregation and would like your input to assist with planning. We sent a similar, but longer questionnaire in November. Five people responded at that time, and if you responded then we hope you will respond again so your thoughts are included with the rest of the congregation. You may get this request multiple times, but you only need to reply once. We hope you can reply by January 22, but a response anytime will be helpful.

The questionnaire can be found at: <https://forms.gle/jZYngPCmDBpz6tss9>. Thank you for your input.

THE SHELTER HOUSE BOOK SALE is scheduled for March 26-27. Book donations and volunteer sorting will begin February 14, at the Old Antique Car Museum – 860 Quarry Road, Coralville.

Our church has historically been a strong supporter of this sale. At the last sale we earned \$21,000 for Shelter House, working side by side with many other community volunteers. Please begin to get your book donations ready and drop them off beginning February 14. If you need someone to pick up your donations, someone from the volunteer team can come to your home. Donations can be dropped off at Rockwood Hall and a volunteer can take them to the sale site. John Fieselmann and Donna Hirst are members of the Planning Committee and can answer any questions you have.

Church Board Opportunities There are several opportunities to serve the church on one of our boards. There are openings on the Diaconate, Christian Education, Membership and Stewardship boards. Please contact Barb Sisley at (319) 430-2694 or sisleywebb@aol.com if you are interested in or want more information about any of these opportunities.



Want to give online? Scan the QR code for our giving app.