



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

WORSHIP FOR JANUARY 28, 2024
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
RENEWING THE COVENANT AND ANNUAL MEETING

PRELUDE “Andante sostenuto” Alexandre Guilmant

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Andrea Rauer, Liturgist

CHORAL INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Grasp the beauty of this moment.

Life beside the river is a never ending change.

Grasp the beauty of this moment

And give thanks that you are here.

It is only God who is eternal.

Let us worship God.

***HYMN 265 “Great God, We Sing That Mighty 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 thank you, God, that you have been with us in the past.
You have led us through the wilderness that life can be.
When we were lost, you searched for us.
When we were in deepest struggle, you comforted us.
For your love and commitment to all people, we praise you, God.**

**Come to us now in our lives as we look ahead once more.
In worship, speak to us.
In our journey through life, go with us.
When our lives are troubled, be with us.
When we are uncertain, steady us.
For your love which holds us forever, we give you thanks. Amen.**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#421, vs. 3 & 5)**

**Then let the servant church arise,
A caring church that longs to be
A partner in Christ's sacrifice,
And clothed in Christ's humanity.**

**We have no mission but to serve
In full obedience to our Lord:
To care for all, without reserve,
And spread his liberating word.**

ANTHEM

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 “Andante con moto” Alexandre Guilmant

*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

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHILDREN

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

SCRIPTURE LESSON Philippians 4:4-14

PSALM 1

Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners,
nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

**Their delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on this law they meditate day and night.**

They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither;
everything they do shall prosper.

**It is not so with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

**For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked is doomed.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Ephesians 3:14-21

SERMON “God’s Power and Our Imagination”

READING THE COVENANT OF CONGREGATIONAL UCC

We covenant with one another to seek and respond to the Word and will of God. We purpose to walk together in the ways of Jesus Christ, made known and to be made known to us. We hold it to be the mission of the Church to witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ in all the world, while worshipping God, and striving for truth, justice, and peace. As did our forebears, we depend on the Holy Spirit to lead and empower us. We pray for the coming of the reign of God, and we look with faith toward the triumph of righteousness and eternal life.

***HYMN 420 “God of Grace and God of Glory”**

**God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your power;
crown your ancient church's story,
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.**

**Lo! the hosts of evil round us
scorn the Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.**

**Cure your children's warring madness;
bend our pride to your control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal.**

**Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
let the gift of your salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore**

***BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE “Sortie” Alexandre Guilmant

Call to Worship—The Rev. Ed Heidinger, minister at Congregational UCC, 1966-1989, adapted

Opening Prayer—Church of Scotland, The Rev. Sandy Forsyth, adapted

“The Church of Christ in Every Age,” Words; Fred Pratt Green - ©1971 Hope Publishing Company. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-715458. All rights reserved.

TODAY

❖ 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

NEXT SUNDAY

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

WE'RE GLAD THAT YOU HAVE JOINED US FOR WORSHIP THIS MORNING.

Everyone is invited to Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall after worship.

ANNUAL MEETING THIS MORNING: The Annual Meeting of the Congregational United Church of Christ will be held this morning, 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. Hard copies are available.

ADULT EDUCATION CONNECTS WITH IOWA CITY ORGANIZATIONS Join us each Sunday through February 18 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, February 4—Alta Media, Domestic Violence Intervention Program and Chuck Dayton, Mission Board

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.

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.

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 kd Richards1958@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 (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/154m7852>. The recordings remain up permanently, so you can watch past worship services at your convenience or recommend them to a friend.