



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

WORSHIP FOR JANUARY 29, 2023
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

“Community cannot feed for long on itself; it can only flourish where always the boundaries are giving way to the coming of others from beyond them — unknown and undiscovered brothers and sisters.”

Howard Thurman

PRELUDE “Largo” John Keeble

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Andrea Rauer, Liturgist

CHORAL INTROIT

***CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 27)**

God is our light and our rescue;
whom should we fear?

**God is the stronghold of our lives;
of whom should we be afraid?**

***HYMN 275 "God of Our Life, Through All the Circling Years"**

**God of our life, through all the circling years,
We trust in Thee;
In all the past, through all our hopes and fears,
Thy hand we see.
With each new day, when morning lifts the veil,
We own Thy mercies, Lord, which never fail.**

**God of the past, our times are in Thy hand;
With us abide.
Lead us by faith, to hope's true promised land;
Be Thou our guide.
With Thee to bless, the darkness shines as light,
and faith's fair vision changes into sight.**

**God of the coming years, through paths unknown
We follow Thee;
When we are strong, Lord, leave us not alone;
Our refuge be.
Be Thou for us in life our daily bread,
Our heart's true home when all our years have sped.**

***OPENING PRAYER (Church of Scotland, The Rev. Sandy Forsyth, adapted)**

**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 (#275)

**Unto the hills we lift our longing eyes with yearning sighs.
Who will provide the help we sorely need? Who hears our cries?
From our Creator comes our certain aid.
Our help is from our God who all things made.**

ANTHEM “The Lord Is My Shepherd” John Rutter

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Introductions: Sarah Fairfield, Chris Lewis, Marsha Lowe, Tim Lowe, Jerri MacConnell,
Larry Shostrom

Owning the Covenant

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.

Welcome of the Congregation

We welcome you with joy into the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hope and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God’s knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

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 “Moderato” Starling Goodwin

*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 "Jesus Loves Me"
Majesty Constable, Children's Choir Director
(The children are dismissed to Children's Church)

SCRIPTURE LESSON Colossians 1:15-20

PSALMS 133 & 134

Oh, how good and pleasant it is,
when the community lives together in unity!

**It is like fine oil upon the head
that runs down upon the beard,**

upon the beard of Aaron,
and runs down upon the collar of his robe.

**It is like the dew of Hermon
that falls upon the hills of Zion.**

For there the Lord has ordained the blessing:
life forevermore.

**Behold now, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord,
you that stand by night in the house of the Lord.**

Lift up your hands in the holy place and bless the Lord;
the Lord who made heaven and earth bless you out of Zion.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 18:15-22

SERMON "Life Together"

*HYMN 418 "God, Bless Your Church with Strength"

God bless your church with strength!

**Wherever we may be,
up build your servants as we work
in common ministry.**

**Urge us from fledgling faith
to venture and to soar
through open skies to sing the praise
of Christ whom we adore.**

God bless your church with life!

**May all our branches thrive,
unblemished, wholesome, bearing fruit,
abundantly alive.**

**From you, one holy vine,
in freedom may we grow;
sustain us in our mission, Lord,
your love and peace to show.**

**God bless your church with hope!
Despite chaotic days,
may we in chaos shine to light
a pathway through life's maze.
May justice be our aim,
and kindness ours to share;
in humbleness O may we walk,
assured our God is there!**

*BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE “Voluntary” John Worgan

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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.

JOIN US FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION EVENTS FOR ALL AGES each Sunday morning at 9:15 a.m.

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

PLEASE VISIT THE BEATITUDES BANNER on the Bulletin Board in Rockford Hall, it was created by our Sunday School. Jesus' Beatitudes are not prescriptive (telling us *how to be*)...but they are descriptive (telling us *who we already are*)! **We are all Blessed!**

HOPE LODGE: Thanks to all who helped prepare and serve dinner at Hope Lodge on Jan 23: Rebecca Weatherford, Hope Spragg, Peter Spragg, Andy Bertolatus, Dianne Atkins, Sally Strang, Barb Hanson, Linda Muston, Bryan Clemons, Ginny Clemons, Chuck Dayton and Sue Dayton.

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 tomorrow, January 30 and if you are interested in helping in any way, please contact Vicki Thomae at 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.

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. 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.