



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

WORSHIP FOR JANUARY 30, 2022
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

“Jesus has a way of turning our values upside down, doesn’t he? He also makes us squirm.”
Peter Bower

PRELUDE Prelude in B Major, Op. 48, No. 6 Josef Renner

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.**

TIME OF GRATITUDE

ANTHEM “Arise, Shine, for Your Light Has Come” Martin How

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

SCRIPTURE LESSON Amos 7:10-15

PSALM 85:1-2, 8-13

You have been gracious to your land, O Lord,
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

**You have forgiven the iniquity of your people
and blotted out all their sins.**

I will listen, O Lord God, to what you are saying,
for you are speaking peace to your faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to you.

**Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell in our land.**

Mercy and truth have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

**Truth shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

O Lord, you will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.

**Righteousness shall go before you,
and peace shall be a pathway for your feet.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 4:21-30

SERMON “The Rest of the Story”

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

CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE Sortie (G Major) Jacques Lemmens

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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. Because of the surge in Covid cases in Johnson County, we are pausing in-person worship today. 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 is 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.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION OF THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC OF IOWA CITY will be held at 11:30 this morning. 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 CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY, JANUARY 31. Jenn Harden will be back in the office on Tuesday morning.

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.

Our church and the Johnson County Interfaith Coalition are being invited to participate in **Community Circles** to engage different groups in the area to discuss economic development decision-making processes. The JCIC Voter Engagement Committee will be participating, and our church members are encouraged to participate. The team of Circles Keepers who will be leading this process includes 1) Angie Jordan, President of the South District Neighborhood Association, 2) Annie Tucker, Executive Director of [Mediation Services of Eastern Iowa](#) and 3) V Fixmer-Oraiz, founder and CEO of [Astig Planning](#). Together they will offer the **Community Circles**.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN EXACTLY?

- **SMALL GROUP MEETING:** online or in-person (masked)
- **TIME COMMITMENT:** 2 hours to engage in a Community Circle, a method of exploring topics together by sitting in a circle, responding to questions, listening, learning more about each other and building community.
- **TIMELINE:** Community Circles are to be scheduled February - early March
- **NEXT STEP:** Information shared in the Community Circle will be shared with Project Better Together 2030 to impact their strategic 10 year plan.

If you are interested contact Donna Hirst, donna-hirst@uiowa.edu, who will compile names and send them to the Team on Feb. 1.

PETITION FOR AMENDMENTS TO IOWA'S NEW VOTING LAWS: The League of Women Voters of Iowa and eight Iowa-based co-sponsors will present petitions to the leadership of the 89th General Assembly at Iowa's Capitol. The petition, which contains signatures of Iowa voters, urges legislators to repeal sections of the newly-enacted voting laws. Iowa's new voter laws make voting harder, disqualifies voters more easily, shortens the voting time by 31%, makes elections more difficult to administer, and invites interference by political parties in elections. [Registered voters can sign the petition online.](#)

Co-sponsors of the petition include: League of Women Voters of Iowa; Common Good Iowa; Des Moines Chapter, The Links, Incorporated; Episcopal Diocese of Iowa; Iowa Chapters of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc.; Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault; Iowa Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO; Interfaith Alliance of Iowa Action Fund; and Sierra Club Iowa Chapter.



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