



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

WORSHIP FOR OCTOBER 23, 2022
TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

“The gospel that preaches the true God is always a matter of Yes, not No, and certainly not Maybe. The good news is good because it always declares God’s unswerving affirmation of God’s creation and of God’s people.”

David Bartlett

PRELUDE “Prelude” Jacques Lemmens

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rachel Burchett, Liturgist

CHORAL INTROIT

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

In these days of change and challenge, God speaks through the prophet:
“Behold, I am doing a new thing.”

God makes a way through the wildness of our lives

God brings abundance out of scarcity, a way out of no way.

Let us worship with open eyes, open minds, and open hearts
that we might know and live in the goodness of God.

**We will join with all creation
and cry “Alleluia!”**

***HYMN 218 “New Songs of Celebration Render”**

**New songs of celebration render
To God who has great wonders done;
Love sits enthroned in ageless splendor;
Come and adore the Mighty One.
God has made known the great salvation
Which all his friends with joy confess.
God has revealed to every nation
Truth and unending righteousness.**

**Joyfully, heartily resounding,
Let every instrument and voice
Peal out the praise of grace abounding,
Calling the whole world to rejoice.
Trumpets and organs, set in motion
Such sounds as make the heavens ring;
All things that live in earth and ocean,
Sound forth the song, your praises bring.**

**Rivers and seas and torrents roaring,
Honor the Lord with wild acclaim;
Mountains and stones look up adoring,
And find a voice to praise God's name.
Righteous, commanding, ever glorious,
Praises be sung that never cease;
Just is our God, whose truth victorious
Establishes the world in peace.**

***OPENING PRAYER**

**O God, you are the One who breaks into our lives with new things. You make a way for us in the midst of a barren desert. You give drink to a thirsty people. You deliver us from trouble. You blot out our transgressions for the sake of your name. You heal us from our infirmities. You say “Yes” to us and to all creation.
Gracious God, we welcome your presence in our lives this day. Be to us all that you desire, that we may worship you in Spirit and in truth. Amen.**

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#218)

**Come, living God when least expected, when minds are dull and hearts are cold,
through sharp'ng word and warm affection revealing truth as yet untold.**

**Break from the tomb in which we hide you to speak again in startling ways;
break through the words in which we bind you to resurrect our lifeless praise.**

ANTHEM "Bless the Lord, O My Soul" David Hurd

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 "Allegretto – Jacques Lemmens

*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

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

SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 2:1-5

PSALM 122

I was glad when they said to me,

"Let us go to the house of the Lord."

**Now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

Jerusalem is built as a city
that is at unity with itself;

**to which the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord,
the assembly of Israel,
to praise the name of the Lord.**

For there are the thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the house of David.

**Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
"May they prosper who love you.**

Peace be within your walls
and quietness within your towers.

**For the sake of my kindred and companions,
I pray for your prosperity.**

[Unison]

**Because of the house of the Lord our God,
I will seek to do you good."**

SCRIPTURE LESSON II Corinthians 1:18-21

SERMON "Saying No, Saying Yes"

*HYMN 360 "Hope of the World"

**Hope of the world, thou Christ of great compassion,
speak to our fearful hearts by conflict rent.
Save us, thy people, from consuming passion,
who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.**

**Hope of the world, God's gift from highest heaven,
bringing to hungry souls the bread of life,
still let thy Spirit unto us be given
to heal earth's wounds and end her bitter strife.**

**Hope of the world, afoot on dusty highways,
showing to wandering souls the path of light;
walk thou beside us, lest the tempting byways
lure us away from thee to endless night.**

**Hope of the world, who by thy cross didst save us
from death and dark despair, from sin and guilt;
we render back the love thy mercy gave us;
take thou our lives, and use them as thou wilt.**

**Hope of the world, O Christ o'er death victorious,
who by this sign didst conquer grief and pain,
we would be faithful to thy gospel glorious:
Thou art our Lord! Thou dost forever reign!**

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE "Voluntary" Andrew Moore

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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.

JENN HARDEN, OUR OFFICE MANAGER, is moving to a new house and will be out of the office tomorrow, Monday, October 24.

CHILDCARE IN THE CHURCH NURSERY will be extended one hour from 9:15-12:30 for Sundays October 23 until December 20. This is to accommodate the extra choir practice for the adult choir.

USHERS, GREETERS, AND HOSPITALITY OPPORTUNITIES: As we continue to reopen, there are new 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.

THE CHILDREN'S CHOIR will sing next Sunday, October 30, during worship.

IT'S HOMECOMING PARADE TIME!!! We've waited three years for this! Be a part of the Homecoming action on October 28 and join the UCC as this annual tradition returns. Bring friends. The parade starts at 5:45 but it's best to come about 5:00 -5:30 pm, as there's lots of traffic. You can decide on any or all of the following activities. Here's what's happening: Chairs and standing room are here, street side, for a vibrant view of parade as it turns the corner. As a fundraiser, the Men's Fellowship grills and sells hot dogs, brats and hamburgers. The Mission Board sells beverages.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY—NOVEMBER 6: Each year on the First Sunday in November, Congregational UCC observes “All Saints Sunday.” This is a time for us to remember and give thanks to God for the lives of those members of Congregational UCC who have died in the past year—and for all the saints. This year we will remember Denny Dudley, Jerry Walker, Claire Ashman, and Donna Bertogli, as well as two former members, Dianna Coberly and Wayne Balmer. Our worship service on this day is both solemn and joyful, befitting a congregation of people who live in the light of the resurrection. As is our custom, we will have a jazz band leading our worship on this Sunday to help us look toward that day when the saints go marchin’ in. Our friend, the well-known local jazz pianist Dick Watson, will lead the music in what promises to be an inspiring event. Please join us on Sunday, November 6, for this special time of worship.

OUR NEXT HOPE LODGE DINNER will be Wednesday, Nov. 9. There is a sign-up sheet in Rockwood Hall.

URGENT PLEA FROM THE JOHNSON COUNTY COMMUNITY FOOD BANK AND A WAY TO HONOR THE MEMORY OF CLAIRE ASHMAN. Our church received an urgent plea for assistance with food donations, as well as monetary donations to purchase food in bulk. The number of households served during these difficult times has steadily increased, as the government assistance shrinks and inflation is on the upswing. Also, HACAP's supply of bulk foods to order has decreased. Monetary gifts stretch much further, however clients are very pleased by the random food donated which helps provide variety. Every donated food item must display a nutrition label to be offered. The Mission Board will have an ongoing donation box in Rockwood Hall, with a list of suggested items. Please consider canned protein sources, pastas, cereals, rice in small bags, boxed meal items, and personal care items. The needs change weekly. Monetary donations can be contributed on the website [Donate \(builtbycommunity.org\)](https://www.builtbycommunity.org) which also includes a printable form and address to mail a check. Needs change frequently, and Jane Kinney or Paula Forest can provide suggestions if needed.

Claire Ashman was devoted many volunteer hours to the food bank, so this will be a soulful way to honor her legacy.

UNDERSTANDING THE PROPOSED “RIGHT TO FIREARMS” AMENDMENT TO IOWA’S CONSTITUTION. As a follow-up to her presentation to the church on September 19, Liz O'Hara, of Moms Demand Action, encourages church members to read a short statement put out by Moms Demand Action and Everytown for Gun Safety on Public Measure 1. Public Measure 1 will appear on this November's ballot in Iowa. To obtain a copy, please see Chuck Connerly after church or email him at charles-connerly@uiowa.edu.

The Unitarian Universalist Society is sponsoring a Ukrainian family and is looking for help with miscellaneous tasks. The father, Ahmad Alhroob, came here last July to start a Jordanian Fellowship at UI Hospital's Neonatal unit. His home country, Jordan, is paying him to be here, but the salary is limited. Ahmad's wife is Ukrainian and had to flee to Germany with their two daughters, 8 and 10. It was too expensive there and there was no school, so the mother and daughters went to Jordan. They will be arriving in Iowa City soon.

The following help is needed:

1. Volunteers to take them to the food bank and grocery store for items the bank doesn't have, such as milk
2. Find winter clothing and boots for the family
3. Find furniture through Houses into Homes, etc.
4. Locate kitchen items, including plates, glasses, pots and pans
5. Help them find an apartment
6. Provide transportation to appointments
7. Tutor English
8. Money to pay first month's rent and a security deposit, estimated at \$2000

If you are able to assist with any of these tasks contact Sally Hartman, sallyahartman@hotmail.com, 319-621-3618. The Mission Board will be getting updates about this effort.



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.