



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

WORSHIP FOR OCTOBER 30, 2022  
TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
REFORMATION SUNDAY

“The Reformation led to a full embrace of the radical political implications of a humanity created in the image of God—each individual with God-given dignity and value. And as a consequence it led to political rights, to a new recognition of justice in the civic and political arena, and to a stress on grace as the fundamental word that God has spoken and on gratitude as the essential response for the one who has received grace.”

John Buchanan

PRELUDE                    “A Mighty Fortress”                    Gerhard Krapf

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS                    Hope Spragg, Liturgist

CHORAL INTROIT

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

God formed us out of the earth,  
breathing Spirit into the dust.

**Our minds open to the movement of the Spirit,  
for God is not finished with us.  
We are always being re-formed.  
Let us worship the living God!**

**\*HYMN 457                    "I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art"**

**I greet Thee, who my sure Redeemer art,  
My only trust and Savior of my heart,  
Who pain didst undergo for my poor sake;  
I pray Thee from our hearts all cares to take.**

**Thou art the King of mercy and of grace,  
Reigning omnipotent in every place:  
So come, O King, and our whole being sway;  
Shine on us with the light of Thy pure day.**

**Thou art the life, by which alone we live,  
And all our substance and our strength receive;  
Sustain us by Thy faith and by Thy power,  
And give us strength in every trying hour.**

**Thou hast the true and perfect gentleness,  
No harshness hast Thou and no bitterness;  
O grant to us the grace we find in Thee,  
That we may dwell in perfect unity.**

**Our hope is in no other save in Thee;  
Our faith is built upon Thy promise free;  
Lord, give us peace, and make us calm and sure,  
That in Thy strength we evermore endure.**

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

**Holy God, you have chosen us to serve you, and appointed us as agents of your love. We thank you for prophets who recall us to your ways. We are grateful for every impulse to confess and correct wrongs, to keep faith lively and purposes faithful. We praise you for your Holy Spirit always reforming the church. Inspire our worship and our work. Give us courage to follow your word, and power to renew your world, so that we may live in the Spirit, sharing faith with Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

**Not for ourselves, O Lord, not for ourselves,  
would we claim glory, but for you alone,**

**because of your great love and faithfulness,  
the steadfast care that makes your presence known.**

ANTHEM    “Behold the House of God”                      Richard Proulx

#### RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Introductions: Peter Bloesch, Darcie Hutzell, Rebecca Weatherford, Julie Wittig

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.**

Declaration to the Members

#### 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    “A Mighty Fortress”    Charles Callahan

\*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

“Thanks A Lot” by Raffi  
Children’s Choir with Majesty Constable  
(At this time, children are dismissed to attend Children's Church.)

SCRIPTURE LESSON      Haggai 1:1-11

PSALM 46

God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.

**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,  
and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea;**

though its waters rage and foam,  
and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.

**The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.

**God is in the midst of the city;  
It shall not be overthrown;  
God shall help it at the break of day.**

The nations make much ado, and the realms are shaken;  
God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.

**The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**

Come now and look upon the works of the Lord,  
what awesome things God has done on earth.

**It is the Lord who makes war to cease in all the world,  
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear,  
and burns the shields with fire.**

“Be still, then, and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations;  
I will be exalted in the earth.”

**The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON      Luke 3:10-11

SERMON                    “Minor Prophets, Major Concerns: The Advice of God”

\*HYMN 260                “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

**A mighty fortress is our God,  
a bulwark never failing;  
our helper he, amid the flood  
of mortal ills prevailing.  
For still our ancient foe**

**does seek to work us woe;  
his craft and power are great,  
and armed with cruel hate,  
on earth is not his equal.**

**Did we in our own strength confide,  
our striving would be losing,  
were not the right One on our side,  
the One of God's own choosing.  
Dost ask who that may be?  
Christ Jesus, it is he;  
Lord Sabaoth his name,  
from age to age the same;  
and he must win the battle.**

**And though this world, with devils filled,  
should threaten to undo us,  
we will not fear, for God has willed  
his truth to triumph through us.  
The prince of darkness grim,  
we tremble not for him;  
his rage we can endure,  
for lo! his doom is sure;  
one little word shall fell him.**

**That Word above all earthly powers  
no thanks to them abideth;  
the Spirit and the gifts are ours  
through him who with us sideth.  
Let goods and kindred go,  
this mortal life also;  
the body they may kill:  
God's truth abideth still;  
his kingdom is forever!**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*CHORAL RESPONSE**

**POSTLUDE      "A Mighty Fortress"      Samuel Scheidt**

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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.

On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther posted 95 Theses (propositions) on the door of the Wittenberg Castle Church as an invitation to debate the sale of indulgences for forgiveness. That was one event in a centuries-long movement that eventually became the Protestant Reformation. Today we mark Reformation Sunday and pray for a church that is always open to reform and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

**RETURN TO STANDARD TIME:** Most of us can use a little extra sleep. Set your clock back an hour before bedtime next Saturday, November 5, get some rest, and join us for worship on Sunday, November 6 (All Saints Sunday) at 10:15 a.m.—CENTRAL STANDARD TIME.

**CHILDCARE IN THE CHURCH NURSERY** is extended one hour from **9:15-12:30** on Sundays 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.

**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 is always an inspiring event. Please join us on Sunday, November 6, for this special time of worship.

**WE WILL RECEIVE OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED (NIN) OFFERING ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6.** NIN is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the [Council for American Indian Ministry](#) (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice.

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

**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](mailto: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](mailto:sallyahartman@hotmail.com), 319-621-3618. The Mission Board will be getting updates about this effort.

### **WARM WINTER WEAR UPDATE**

Thanks to everyone who helped make this year's event a success. They gave away a total of 1867 coats from Wednesday, 10/19, through Friday, 10/21. This consisted of 1325 coats for children (sizes 3 mo - size 18, boys and girls.) and 542 coats for adults (sizes S - XXXL, men and women). All scarves, boots and gloves were given away. They had a total of more than 300 families represented, and many of the individuals were shopping for a minimum of 8 people.

Unfortunately, they had to contact those who had hoped to shop on Saturday because they were all out of popular clothes. Most of the items were actually gone by Thursday afternoon. They were unable to meet the needs of at least 95 children from sizes 10 - 18, especially 14/16/18 (including both boys and girls). Adult coats were in demand, and they could have used many more coats of all sizes.

28 brand new coats for children, sizes 2 and 3 (and a couple size 4/5), and the few remaining hats were given to the Catholic Worker House, which supports many immigrant families.

***Thank you to the more than 80 volunteers who spent time sorting, organizing, and serving as shopper assistants. This help was invaluable. Many individuals signed up to assist, and some service organizations were represented among the volunteers.***

**Donations were received from a large number of faith communities and individuals. A more detailed report will be available later.**

**Are you missing a jacket?** An LLBean, brown heavy denim, corduroy collar, with sunglasses in a pocket. It was left in the office of the winter shelter. Carolyn has the jacket and the owner can contact her at [carolyn.otis@gmail.com](mailto:carolyn.otis@gmail.com)



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.