



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

WORSHIP FOR OCTOBER 8, 2023  
NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

“The best gift we can give to each other may be neither a thing nor an act, but our own generosity. My generosity is reciprocated by your generosity, and the circle of mutual love keeps turning.”

Miroslav Volf

PRELUDE                    “Andante”            Johann Georg Albrechtsberger

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS                    Tina Koepnick, Liturgist

## CHORAL INTROIT

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

From the deepest places in our lives, we cry to God:

**“God hear my voice, do not be far from me.”**

Let us not forget God’s steadfast love and power to redeem.

**We wait for God, and in God’s Word we find hope.**

### \*HYMN 288 “I Sing the Mighty Power of God”

**I sing the mighty power of God  
that made the mountains rise,  
that spread the flowing seas abroad  
and built the lofty skies.**

**I sing the wisdom that ordained  
the sun to rule the day;  
the moon shines full at God’s command,  
and all the stars obey.**

**I sing the goodness of the Lord  
that filled the earth with food;  
God formed the creatures with a word  
and then pronounced them good.  
Lord, how your wonders are displayed,  
where’er I turn my eyes,  
if I survey the ground I tread  
or gaze upon the skies.**

**There’s not a plant or flower below  
but makes Thy glories known,  
and clouds arise and tempests blow  
by order from Thy throne;  
while all that borrows life from Thee  
is ever in your care,  
and everywhere that we can be,  
Thou, God, art present there.**

### \*OPENING PRAYER

**O God, distant yet near, be among us this day. Hear again the confessions and longings of our hearts. Help us change the narrowness of our vision and the pettiness of our living. Make us new again with your grace.**

**Grant us the maturity to accept your many gifts in humility and to use them with faithfulness. Grant to us your Spirit that our worship may have integrity and energy, that each day we might live before you in faith, hope, and love.**

**We praise and give thanks to you, Eternal Presence; through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#288)

**Behold, God's ever-watchful eye sees through our great despair;  
the arms of Grace encircle us with strong, yet tender care;  
the hope of all the ages past, that sets at peace our fears,  
God's mercy and God's steadfast love shall follow all our years.**

ANTHEM                    "Achieved Is the Glorious Work"    Franz Joseph Haydn

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            "Menuett"            Franz Joseph Haydn

\*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            Proverbs 11:24-26

PSALM 112:1-9

Hallelujah!

Happy are they who fear the Lord

and have great delight in the Lord's commandments!

**Their descendants will be mighty in the land;  
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

Wealth and riches will be in their house,

and their righteousness will last forever.

**Light shines in the darkness for the upright;  
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

It is good for them to be generous in lending  
and to manage their affairs with justice.

**For they will never be shaken;  
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;  
their heart is right;  
they put their trust in the Lord.

**Their heart is established and will not shrink,  
until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

[Unison]

**They have given freely to the poor,  
and their righteousness stands fast forever;  
they will hold up their head with honor.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON      II Corinthians 8:1-9

SERMON      “The Year of Living Generously”

\*HYMN 422      “God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

**God, whose giving knows no ending,  
from your rich and endless store  
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,  
costly cross, grave's shattered door  
gifted by you, we turn to you,  
offering up ourselves in praise;  
thankful song shall rise forever,  
gracious donor of our days.**

**Skills and time are ours for serving  
that your will on earth be done  
all at peace in health and freedom,  
peoples joined, the Church made one.  
Now direct our daily labor,  
lest we spend our time in vain.  
Use our talents, guide our service  
that our work your love proclaim.**

**Treasure too You have entrusted,  
Gain through powers Your grace conferred;  
Ours to use for home and kindred,  
And to spread the gospel Word.  
Open wide our hands, in sharing,  
As we heed Christ's ageless call,  
Healing, teaching, and reclaiming,  
Serving You by loving all.**

\*BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE “Praeludium” (C Major) Johann Christian Kittel

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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
Children’s Choir Director	Majesty Constable
Office Manager	Jenn Harden

TODAY

❖	Church School Breakfast	9:00 am
	Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am
	Christian Education	9:15 am
	Worship Service	10:15 am
	Children’s Church	During Worship
	Confirmation Class	4:00 pm

TUESDAY

❖	Mission Board	7:00 pm
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SATURDAY

❖	Progressive Dinner	5:00 pm
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NEXT SUNDAY

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

**WE’RE GLAD THAT YOU HAVE JOINED US FOR WORSHIP THIS MORNING.**  
Everyone is invited to Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall after worship. Masks are welcome.

**JENN HARDEN WILL BE OUT OF THE OFFICE TOMORROW, MONDAY, OCTOBER 9.** Bill Lovin will be at the church in the afternoon on Monday.

**THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO GAVE TO THE TEE OFFERING.** We received over \$300 to support the Theological Education by Extension College in South Africa. TEE is a private, nonprofit, distance learning institution serving five south African countries. The mission of the college is to equip men and women for Christian ministry. Students come from 28 denominations across southern Africa including the UCC of South Africa. For more information about this amazing program, please visit their website at [www.tee.co.za](http://www.tee.co.za). **You can still give—please put “TEE” on your check or envelope.**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED THIS WEEK FOR THE WARM WINTER WEAR**

**DISTRIBUTION:** The Consultation of Religious Communities (CRC) will be distributing free warm winter clothing for community members in need of assistance. Location: 340 Southgate Avenue, Far East end of the building (The Winter Shelter). Volunteers are needed from October 8-14. *You are invited to sign up for multiple shifts during the distribution period.* Link for the Volunteers - Sign up today! <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0B49A9AE2FA20-warm4>

**RUN FOR THE SCHOOLS—SUNDAY OCTOBER 29:** One of the joys of in-person worship is navigating the challenges presented by downtown events. The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Run for the Schools will be held on October 29. Some streets to the south and east of the church will be closed. College St. will be shut down from Linn St. to Muscatine Ave. Gilbert St. will be shut down from Burlington St. to Washington St. Dodge St. will be shut down and southbound traffic will be rerouted on to Washington St. Governor St. will be shut down and northbound traffic will be rerouted on to Burlington St. **The church and the parking lot will both be accessible.** It might take a few extra minutes to get to church that morning. Plan accordingly, but plan to worship with us. Race maps can be found [here](#).

**ALL SAINTS SUNDAY—NOVEMBER 5:** 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. 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 in order to help us look toward that day when the saints go marchin’ in. The well-known local jazz pianist Dick Watson will again lead the music in what promises to be an inspiring event. Please plan to join us for this special time of worship as we give thanks for the lives of Sandy Boyd, Lee Wood, Marge Hoppin, and Candace Noble.

**WE WILL RECEIVE OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED (NIN) OFFERING ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5:** 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.

***WHY PEOPLE DON'T VOTE: DISAFFECTED VOTERS AND THE PROCESS OF DEMOCRACY:*** Tuesday, October 24, 6:30-8:00 p.m. at the Iowa City Public Library.

Congregational UCC member and Distinguished University Professor of Political Science at the University of Iowa, Caroline Tolbert, will address the question: If voting is such a precious right, why does a large percentage of eligible voters opt not to participate in choosing our elected officials?

**THE NEW FURNACES AND AIR CONDITIONERS HAVE BEEN INSTALLED.**

**HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP:** We received a major gift from a family in the congregation to help pay for the new units. Many other members would like to be a part of funding this project. Your gifts to the HVAC Fund will mean that we will need to use less of our reserves for this project. Thanks for your generous giving.

**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](mailto: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 or Trustee Chairperson, Kevin Richards, know right away. You can reach Kevin at (608) 807-7195 or at [kd Richards1958@gmail.com](mailto: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. 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.