



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

WORSHIP FOR NOVEMBER 10, 2024  
TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*Welcome to Congregational UCC. We are glad that you are here this morning. While we affirm that God speaks to us in many ways, we ask that you silence your cell phone as you enter the sanctuary. Please use the time during the prelude to quietly prepare for worship.*

“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, in all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.”

Attributed to John Wesley

PRELUDE “Festival Piece” George Blake

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CHORAL INTROIT

#### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

In the weariness and turmoil of our days

**Come meet God who is our strength.**

As we struggle with the challenges of our lives

**Come greet God who is the mystery of our being.**

As the light flickers within us

**Draw near to God's light that illumines our lives.**

\* HYMN 263            "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,**

**In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,**

**Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,**

**Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.**

**Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,**

**Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;**

**Thy justice, like mountains, high soaring above**

**Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small;**

**In all life Thou livest, the true life of all;**

**We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,**

**And wither and perish; but naught changeth Thee.**

**Thou reignest in glory, Thou rulest in light,**

**Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;**

**All praise we would render; O help us to see**

**'Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee!**

#### \*OPENING PRAYER

**Healing God, we come before you**

**broken, yet seeking wholeness,**

**isolated, yet seeking community,**

**overwhelmed, yet seeking clarity.**

**We ask for your grace to find these things.**

**Forgiving God, we come before you**

**bitter, yet seeking a generous heart,**

**self-righteous, yet seeking humility,**

**responsible for wrongs, yet seeking reconciliation.**

**We ask for your mercy to find these things.**

**God of Compassion, we come before you  
afraid, yet seeking reassurance,  
agitated, yet seeking serenity,  
angry, yet seeking a calm spirit.  
We ask for your loving-kindness to find these things.**

**Knowing that in Christ all things are made new  
we come this day to be renewed. Amen.**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#286, vs. 1 & 4)**

**Give to the winds your fears;  
In hope be undismayed:  
God hears your sighs and counts your tears,  
God shall lift up your head.**

**On God the Lord rely,  
And safe shall you go on;  
Fix on God's work your steadfast eye,  
So shall your work be done.**

**ANTHEM "The Last Words of David" Randall Thompson**

#### **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 "Trio in G Major" John Stainer

\*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**

(The children are dismissed to Children's Church)

SCRIPTURE LESSON      Isaiah 41:8-10

SCRIPTURE LESSON      II Corinthians 4:1, 6-7

SCRIPTURE LESSON      Galatians 6:9-10

SCRIPTURE LESSON      Luke 18:1-8

SERMON      “The Yes That Is Protest”

\*HYMN 152 (vs. 1,2, & 4)      “Earth’s Scattered Isles and Contoured Hills”

**Earth's scattered isles and contoured hills  
Which part the seas and mold the land,  
And vistas newly seen from space  
That show a world awesome and grand,  
All wondrously unite to sing:  
Take heart, take hope, the Lord is King!**

**God's judgment passed on social ills  
That thwart awhile divine intent,  
The flagging dreams of weary folk  
Whose brave new world lies torn and rent,  
In painful form their message bring:  
Take heart, take hope, the Lord is King!**

**The light which shines through noble acts,  
The quest for truth dispelling lies,  
The grace of Christ renewed in us  
So love lives on and discord dies,  
All blend their song, good news to bring:  
Take heart, take hope, the Lord is King!**

BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE      “Fanfare and Postlude”      Janet Correll

The opening prayer, “Healing God, we come before you...” was written by Ana and Tod Gobledale, who served UCC Global Ministries as local ministers in both South Africa and Zimbabwe, and in Australia at Churches of Christ Theological College near Melbourne. Adapted.

“Earth’s Scattered Isles and Contoured Hills,” Words by Jeffrey Rowthorn, Music by Walter L. Pelz © Copyright 1977 Hinshaw Music (administered worldwide by Fred Bock Publishing Group) All rights reserved. Used by Permission. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-715458. All rights reserved.

Minister:	The Rev. Bill Lovin
Interim Director of CE:	Hope Spragg
Organist:	Bill Crouch
Choir Director:	Dr. Chris Nakielski
Children's Choir Director:	Rachel Burchett
Office Manager:	Jenn Harden
Financial Manager	Sharyn Huriaux Reitz

**WE'RE GLAD THAT YOU ARE WORSHIPING WITH US THIS MORNING.** Everyone is invited to Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall after worship.

	TODAY
❖ Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am
Christian Education for All Ages	9:15 am
Worship Service	10:15 am
Special Music Choir Rehearsal	11:35 am
	TUESDAY
❖ Board of Christian Education	7:00 pm
	WENESDAY
❖ New Member Class	7:00 pm
	SATURDAY
❖ Men's Breakfast—Waterfront Hy-Vee	8:00 am
	NEXT SUNDAY
❖ Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am
Christian Education for All Ages	9:15 am
Worship Service	10:15 am
Special Music Choir Rehearsal	11:35 am

**GIVING TOGETHER, GROWING TOGETHER:** The Christian life is lived together. We gather to worship, we work with each other in mission, we study in groups, we bear one another's burdens, and we talk and laugh together over coffee. We give together. We grow together. Please return your 2025 pledge card as soon as possible. Extra cards are available on the table outside of the sanctuary.

**THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO GAVE TO OUR OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED (NIN) OFFERING LAST SUNDAY:** We received over \$870. 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. If you still want to give, please use the special envelopes in the pews or write NIN on your check. Thanks again.

**MISSION BOARD ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS GIVING FAIR  
THREE SUNDAYS! NOVEMBER 17 - DECEMBER 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>**

We will hold our Alternative Christmas Gift Fair in Rockwood Hall after worship on THREE Sundays this year. There will be Heifer Project animal gift cards bearing Ginny Clemons' graceful calligraphy and Church World Service "ornaments". Proceeds from Christmas cards, jewelry, and gift baskets donated by artists and craftspeople in our congregation will go to local community agencies. The Mitten Tree awaits your new or gently used mittens, scarves, and hats for the Joan Buxton School project. The Angel Tree will have toy request cards from the Salvation Army and envelopes for a holiday meal donation distributed by CommUnity. Photo and picture frame sales will benefit our Church Endowment Fund. Contact John Reitz at 319-333-9588, [john-reitz@uiowa.edu](mailto:john-reitz@uiowa.edu) for information.

**Come have a cup of coffee and browse!**

**OUR NEXT HOPE LODGE DINNER** will be Monday, November 18. For those who would like to provide food there is a signup sheet in Rockwood Hall. Others are welcome to eat dinner and visit with residents. Dinner is served at 5:30 p.m.

**THE JOHNSON COUNTY INTERFAITH COALITION IS HAVING THEIR ANNUAL FRIEND AND FUND RAISER** at the Unitarian Universalist Society, Nov. 20, 6:00-8:30. The church has purchased three tables. All you need to do is tell Jenn Harden (319-337-4301) or Donna Hirst that you'd like to attend. If you would like to be a volunteer (likely serving food), let Donna know: [donna-hirst@uiowa.edu](mailto:donna-hirst@uiowa.edu). You can make an individual donation by giving a check to Bea Hicks, JCIC Treasurer.

**ARMISTICE DAY OBSERVANCE:** Monday, November 11, 10:45 a.m., Ped Mall Stage, Iowa City. The Public is Invited to Re-dedicate Ourselves to the Works of Peace  
*Assembly will be played by bugler Ross Porch at 10:45.  
Bells Will Ring at the 11th Hour, 11th Day, 11th Month.  
Paul Deaton, Guest Speaker, Founding member of Veterans For Peace Chapter #161*  
Stand with us for half an hour to honor and remember all victims of war, and to remind ourselves that it is our duty to build a peaceful future AWAY From WAR.  
There will be a free lunch for all at the Iowa City Public Library after the outdoor observance. Organized by Veterans For Peace Chapter #16.1 For further Information, see [vfp161.org](http://vfp161.org) or contact Ed Flaherty @319 621-6766.

**THE IOWA UCC CONFERENCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS** invites all members and churches the opportunity to meet and talk with the Tri-Conference candidate for Conference Minister, Rev. Roberto Ochoa. On Sunday, November 24th, there will be a **Meet and Greet** at 2:00 pm. We welcome you to come meet and speak with Rev. Ochoa in person at Grinnell UCC or join the conversation via Zoom. Here's the link:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87021686684#success>. **Meeting ID:** 870 2168 6684.

**AGAPE CAFÉ VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:** Agape Cafe is a pop-up style restaurant located in Old Brick Church where they serve free hot dine-in or to-go breakfasts for our neighbors every Wednesday from 7:30-9AM. Since the beginning of the academic semester, they have experienced a significant uptick in guests coming in for their services, averaging more than 105 meals served. With the higher demand, they are on the lookout for consistent volunteers who can help fulfill their mission of feeding our friends and neighbors experiencing homelessness and/or food insecurity. If you are interested in pitching in to help prep food, serve, or with clean-up, we would love to have you. Please email [agapebreakfast@gmail.com](mailto:agapebreakfast@gmail.com) for additional information.

**PLEASE HELP WITH PARKING IN THE CHURCH LOT:** Several people currently have mobility issues and need to park in our small parking lot on Jefferson St. If you are able, please park elsewhere so that the marked and unmarked spaces can be used by those who need them. 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 (319-337-4301) know right away. 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/1547852>. The recordings remain up permanently, so you can watch past worship services at your convenience or recommend them to a friend.