



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

WORSHIP FOR NOVEMBER 20, 2022
TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
THANKSGIVING SUNDAY

“By the goodness of God, we are so far from want, that we often wish you partakers of our plenty.”

Edward Winslow, in a letter of December 11, 1621, the only existing description of the first Pilgrim Thanksgiving harvest festival

PRELUDE “Let All things Now Living” Arr. by David Cherwien

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Kevin Richards, Liturgist

CHORAL INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 145)

The Lord is gracious and merciful,

slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

The Lord is good, and has compassion over us all.

All your creatures will praise you, and all your people will give you thanks.

They speak of your amazing realm of love.

Your commonwealth endures throughout all generations.

You, O God, are faithful in all your words, and gracious in all your deeds.

*HYMN 560 “We Plow the Fields and Scatter”

We plow the fields and scatter

The good seed on the land,

But it is fed and watered

By God's almighty hand.

God sends the snow in winter,

The warmth to swell the grain,

The breezes and the sunshine,

And soft refreshing rain.

You only are the Maker

For all things near and far;

You paint the wayside flower,

You light the evening star.

The winds and waves obey you,

By you the birds are fed;

Much more to us, your children,

You give our daily bread.

We thank you, then, Creator,

For all things bright and good;

The seed-time and the harvest,

Our life, our health, our food.

Accept the gift we offer

For what your love imparts

And what you most would welcome:

Our humble, thankful hearts.

*OPENING PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

For our families and communities where we are nurtured and fed, where we serve one another,

O God, our hearts are filled with thanks.

For those whose communities are shattered, whose families are torn apart,

O God, give us grace to share each other's grief.

For the abundance of goods and blessings that you have given us,

O God, our hearts are filled with thanks.

For those who have little, who hunger for daily food,

O God, give us grace to share what we have.

For lives that have been spared, and for lives restored,

O God, our hearts are filled with thanks.

For our grief over those taken from us,

O God, give us grace to accept our living, even when others have died.

For homes and comfortable places to sleep at night, for havens away from violence,

O God, our hearts are filled with thanks.

For our neighbors who have no homes, whose beds are the streets, who live in fear,

O God, give us grace to open our hands and our hearts, to give shelter and comfort.

Make us thankful and generous with all that has been given us. Amen.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#555 vs. 1 & 2)

**Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices;
Who, from our parent's arms, hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is our today.**

**O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in God's grace, and guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills in this world and the next.**

ANTHEM *"Te Deum"* ("We Praise You, O God") Movement 1 Antonin Dvorak

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 *"Fughetta"* Antonín Dvořák

*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

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES TO CHURCH SCHOOL CHILDREN

Third Graders

Oscar Lewis

Willem Morton
Alice Umlah
Fourth Graders
Fielding Woolums
Adelaide Leeds
Fifth Graders
Elizabeth Groff
Liliana Lewis
Amelia Green-Erving

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

SCRIPTURE LESSON Deuteronomy 26:1-11

PSALM 100

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands;
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before God's presence with a song.

**Know this: The Lord alone is God;
we belong to the Lord, who made us,
we are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture.**

Enter God's gates with thanksgiving; go into the holy courts with praise;
give thanks and call upon the name of the Lord.

**For good is the Lord,
whose mercy is everlasting;
and whose faithfulness endures from age to age.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON John 6:25-35

SERMON "Partakers of Our Plenty" or "The Guy at the End of the Table"

*HYMN 554 "Let All Things Now Living"

**Let all things now living
A song of thanksgiving
To God our Creator triumphantly raise;
Who fashioned and made us,
Protected and stayed us,
By guiding us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us,
Pure light goes before us,
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night:
Till shadows have vanished
And darkness is banished,
As forward we travel from light into Light.**

By law God enforces.

**The stars in their courses,
The sun in its orbit obediently shine;
The hills and the mountains,
The rivers and fountains,
The depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We, too, should be voicing
Our love and rejoicing
With glad adoration, a song let us raise:
Till all things now living
Unite in thanksgiving,
To God in the highest, hosanna and praise.**

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Now thank We All Our God” Arr. by David Cherwien

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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.

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON THURSDAY AND FRIDAY THIS WEEK in celebration of Thanksgiving. Please have any material for the bulletin to the office by Tuesday, November 22.

BILL LOVIN WILL BE ON VACATION THIS WEEK, from Monday through Sunday. The Rev. Bob Molsberry will be our guest preacher next Sunday.

THERE WILL BE NO SUNDAY SCHOOL OR CHILDREN’S CHOIR NEXT SUNDAY, November 27.

ADVENT BEGINS NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27. Our Advent and Christmas observances and celebrations renew some of our traditional activities and events and also bring some new possibilities. Here are some important dates:
November 27—First Sunday in Advent; Lighting of the Advent Candles begins.
December 4—Second Sunday in Advent; Communion
December 11— Third Sunday in Advent; Children’s Christmas Pageant

December 18—Fourth Sunday in Advent; Special Music Sunday
Christmas Eve is Saturday, December 24. There will be one worship services—at 5:30 p.m. Gala Reception follows in Rockwood Hall
Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25—Worship at 10:15 a.m.

ALTERNATIVE GIVING

In anticipation of Christmas, the Mission Board has organized Alternative Giving opportunities beginning November 27. Tree tags for the Salvation Army Angel Tree will be available. Gifts for kids will need to be returned to the church by December 18. The Mitten Tree will be available to be decorated with your donations of hats, gloves, scarves, etc. These items will be taken to the Iowa City School District for use in the schools, in honor of Joan Buxton who was a school nurse for many years.

Project Holiday tree tags/envelopes will also be available starting November 27. This is the CommUnity annual holiday meal distribution. Donations will be mailed by the donor, and must be received at CommUnity by December 17.

Mission Board members will take orders for Heifer Project gifts after church on November 27 and December 4. Payments by check will be received, and Ginny Clemmons will personalize gift cards that can be mailed by the purchaser. The catalog can be viewed

here: <https://www.heifer.org/gift-catalog/index.html>

Members of the church have offered to sell some of their art items for Alternative Giving, so be sure to stop by their tables to find a gift to purchase!

A NEW THREE SESSION BIBLE STUDY looking at the story of the birth of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke will begin on Wednesday, November 30 at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom. If you are interested, please email or talk with Bill.

WE WILL BE PRESENTING BIBLES TO OUR THIRD GRADERS THIS MORNING.

Because we are including those children who moved through Third grade during our COVID sequester, we will also be including those who are in Fourth AND Fifth grade! There are quite a few children receiving their Bibles. Thanks for celebrating with us!

WE WILL HOST THE YOUTH GROUP HERE AT THE CONGREGATIONAL UCC THIS AFTERNOON, from 3-5. They will be Geocaching downtown Iowa City. Don't know what that is? Ask a youth.

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. Thanks.

THE STEWARDSHIP BOARD THANKS YOU for your generous gifts to support the ministry and mission of Congregational UCC again this year. In our presentations during the past several weeks you have heard about the great work these gifts have made possible. We are inspired by the compassion, caring, and community that we find here. If you haven't already, please prayerfully decide on the amount of your support for the coming year as you give thanks for God's surprising gifts. We ask that you fill out the pledge card and return it as soon as possible.

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO GAVE TO OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED (NIN) OFFERING ON NOVEMBER 6. We received \$1234 approaching last year's total of \$1348. NIN is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. **You can still give—please write “NIN” on your check or envelope.**

GIFTS FOR PARENTS, 9 A.M. – 1:30 P.M. ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 2675 E. Washington Street, Iowa City

An opportunity for kids, ages 4–14, to experience the joy of giving. Kids select up to 3 free gifts to give to important adults in their lives.

Donations and Volunteers are Needed!

Donations:

Faith community coordinators and individuals should deliver donated items to St. Mark's fellowship hall on Thursday, 12/1, at 9 am to 6:30 pm.

Items should be new, or gently used and clean. **NO** sized clothing; hats, gloves and scarves are welcome. Gifts for men are especially helpful. *For items requiring batteries, please supply batteries.* Suggested donations:

- | | |
|---|--|
| -caps, scarves, gloves | -flashlights (include batteries) |
| -jewelry, costume jewelry | -hand tool sets |
| -unique coffee mugs / cups | -craft items |
| -knick-knacks | -decorative key chain-gas prepaid cards |
| -wall art, shelf art, table art | -decorative soaps or bubble bath |
| -wallets & purses | -Amaryllis bulbs |
| -tree ornaments | -car emergency kits, ice scrapers / snow brushes |
| -scented lotion or after shave | -gift cards to local businesses |
| -scented/decorative candles | -tire pressure gauge |
| -kitchen gadgets: aprons, cutting boards, potholders, dish towels, etc. | -Hawkeye items |
| | -jigsaw puzzles, games & cards |

We also need donations of “Tall Kitchen” bags, small jewelry boxes, gift bags, bows, tape, & adhesive tags. **We do not need wrapping paper.**

Volunteers are needed for specific shifts within the broad time frames noted below:

- Set up/sorting on Thursday, December 1, 12–8:00 p.m.
- Set up/sorting on Friday, December 2, 9:00 a.m.-Noon
- Greeters, escorts, wrappers, cleanup, etc., Saturday, December 3, 8:30 a.m.–4 p.m.
- Assist the St Mark's Men's Group to prepare, serve & clean up after the pancake breakfast.

Get specific volunteer information and sign up to volunteer at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0B49A9AE2FA20-gifts1>

THE STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS AT THE CENTER FOR WORKER ARE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THE RETURN OF THEIR GIFT OF GIVING PROGRAM! The Gift of Giving initiative aims to connect local families with a sponsor who is willing to provide each family member with a gift. This year 30 families in need will be selected for the project. CWJ is currently looking for at least 1 sponsor per family. Sponsors can choose the size of family they would like to sponsor. Additionally, sponsors will receive information on members of their

family such as age, gender, shoe size, shirt size, pant size, color preferences, and what the family needs most this year. If you or someone you know would like to be a sponsor, please fill out this form<<https://default.salsalabs.org/Tb5e665b2-ecd0-4103-a2c1-22dfc04815b4/30327e39-7511-423b-9906-e59cfda00b>>.

THIS AFTERNOON THE CHAMBER SINGERS OF IOWA CITY steps into its next half century with a dazzling array of choral favorites spanning the Renaissance to 21st century. Johann Sebastian Bach's profound Cantata 131 *Aus der Tiefe* is the centerpiece of a concert that includes music by Roland de Lassus, Sergei Rachmaninoff, David Dickau, Amy Beach, Sarah Quartel, Moses Hogan, William Dawson, Gregory W. Brown, and others at Voxman at 3pm.

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.



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.