



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

WORSHIP FOR FEBRUARY 12, 2023
SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

“The Sermon on the Mount is Jesus at his ornery best: offering ‘advice’ that makes no sense divorced from the nature of the one giving it.”

Jason Byasse

PRELUDE “Prayer,” Op. 47 No. 4 Alexandre Guilmant

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Tina Koepnick, Liturgist

CHORAL INTROIT

* CALL TO WORSHIP

The Psalmist says: "God makes all things new."

And so, we come today to say:

"Yes, make all things new."

We long to be comforted.

We long for words to heal.

We long for something new to open a way.

And so, we come today and say:

"Yes, make all things new."

*HYMN 272 "God of the Sparrow"

God of the sparrow

God of the whale

God of the swirling stars

How does the creature say Awe

How does the creature say Praise

God of the earthquake

God of the storm

God of the trumpet blast

How does the creature cry Woe

How does the creature cry Save

God of the rainbow

God of the cross

God of the empty grave

How does the creature say Grace

How does the creature say Thanks

God of the hungry

God of the sick

God of the prodigal

How does the creature say Care

How does the creature say Life

God of the neighbor

God of the foe

God of the pruning hook

How does the creature say Love

How does the creature say Peace

God of the ages

God near at hand

God of the loving heart

How do your children say Joy

How do your children say Home

*OPENING PRAYER

From our hearts, O God, we thank you for the day newly begun: for sleep behind us, light upon us, love around us; for the needs and hopes that we have in common with all people and for all that we hold in common with followers of Christ throughout the earth. God of darkness and dawn, shine into our lives at this hour. Awaken us with wonder; renew our hope and lift us above our despair. May we worship you now in spirit and in truth and serve you this day with gladness. Amen.

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#474, vs. 1 & 4)

**O splendor of God's glory bright,
From light eternal bringing light;
Thou light of life, light's living spring,
True day, all days illumining.**

**O Lord, with each returning morn
Thine image to our hearts is born;
O may we ever clearly see
Our Savior and our God in Thee!**

ANTHEM "Lead Me On" Brian Schmidt

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 "Interlude" V.F. Skop

*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 Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18

PSALM 119

Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes,
and I shall keep it to the end.

**Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law;
I shall keep it with all my heart.**

Make me go in the path of your commandments,
for that is my desire.

**Incline my heart to your decrees
and not to unjust gain.**

Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless;
give me life in your ways.

**Fulfill your promise to your servant,
which you make to those who fear you.**

Turn away the reproach which I dread,
because your judgments are good.

**Behold, I long for your commandments;
in your righteousness preserve my life.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 5:38-48

SERMON "Listening to Jesus"

*HYMN 411 "Arise, Your Light Is Come!"

**Arise, your light has come!
The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God
which shines on you today.**

**Arise, your light has come!
Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captive's liberty,
good tidings to the poor.**

**Arise, your light has come!
All you in sorrow born,
bind up the brokenhearted ones
and comfort those who mourn.**

**Arise, your light has come!
The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing,
God's power will make us strong.**

*BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE "Postlude" Alexandre Guilmant

Call to Worship—Prof. Dr. Heinrich Bedford-Strohm, Presiding Bishop of the Lutheran Church of Bavaria and Chairman of the Council of the Evangelical Church in Germany. Adapted from *Voices of Lament, Hope, and Courage: A Week of Prayer*, Copyright © 2021 WCC Publications. Used with permission.

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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.

JOIN US FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION EVENTS FOR ALL AGES each Sunday morning at 9:15 a.m.

THIS MORNING WE WILL RECEIVE A SPECIAL OFFERING FOR EARTHQUAKE RELIEF EFFORTS IN TURKEY AND SYRIA. Funds from the offering will be sent to Church World Service (CWS). While CWS is not active in either Turkey or Syria, they work closely with the European based Action by Churches Together (ACT). ACT is already in those countries helping with the relief efforts. Immediately after the 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck in the early hours of the morning on February 6, ACT members began to conduct rapid needs assessments in Syria and Turkey. They also began to provide life-saving aid including food, medicine, and warm blankets to families who lost everything to the quake even as search and rescue efforts continue to free survivors from the rubble. CWS will forward our gifts to ACT for their ongoing work in the affected areas.

Please be generous in your giving this Sunday. And please keep the people of these countries in your prayers.

If you would like to give online before or after Sunday, you can do so [here](#). Please add a note that your online gift is for Earthquake Relief.

PLEASE VISIT THE BEATITUDES BANNER on the Bulletin Board in Rockford Hall, it was created by our Sunday School. Jesus' Beatitudes are not prescriptive (telling us *how to be*)...but they are descriptive (telling us *who we already are*)! **We are all Blessed!**

CALLING ALL KNITTERS, CROCHETERS AND EMBROIDRYERS and others who create with hands and thread! Our group will begin to meet again, this Tuesday, February 14th in the church library. Bring your project at 1:00 to join, or rejoin us, once again. Call Patte Henderson for more information at 319.594.7185

NEW BIBLE STUDY BEGINS ON FEBRUARY 15: During the season of Lent, Bill Lovin will be leading a Bible study looking at the book of Ecclesiastes. As with our other studies in recent years, this will be held on Zoom (to allow for interstate and international participation) and will meet on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:30. We will explore two chapters of Ecclesiastes each week. We'll start on February 15, take a week off for the Ash Wednesday worship service on February 22, and then continue through the five Wednesdays of March.

Please talk with Bill, call him at church (319-337-4301) or email him at uccicrev@uccic.org for more information or to let him know you are interested and he will send you the Zoom invitation.

ASH WEDNESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER AND WORSHIP SERVICE BEGIN THE SEASON OF LENT ON FEBRUARY 22: On Wednesday, February 22, our Board of Christian Education will host their annual pancake supper in Rockwood Hall from 6-7 p.m. Sure, it's a day after Mardi Gras, but we Congregationalist have never been ruled by the church calendar. Bring your family and friends and join others for pancakes, eggs, sausage, good company, and good conversation.

After eating, we will hold our Ash Wednesday worship service in the sanctuary at 7:00. This will be a time of music and song, scripture and prayer, and the distribution of ashes for those who want them. The worship service is designed for people of all ages.

Easter is Sunday, April 9, this year.

SACRED CONVERSIONS TO END RACISM: 1.5 day Intensive Workshop on Zoom, March 24-25. The Congregational UCC Mission Board is sponsoring a 2-day workshop on Zoom for members of the congregation. Our instructor will be Rev. Dr. Velda Love, national UCC Lead for Join the Movement Toward Racial Justice and Minister for Racial Justice. Details can be found in the Newsletter and periodic Bulletins. If you are interested in registering send an email to: donna-hirst@uiowa.edu.

THE CHURCH COUNCIL IS SEEKING A VOLUNTEER TO SCAN AND ORGANIZE THE HISTORICAL ANNUAL REPORTS. For more information, please contact the Church office.

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. 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 during January and February. Don't miss your chance. 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.