



“Joyful Mountain”—Paul Klee (Public Domain)

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

WORSHIP FOR FEBRUARY 15, 2026
SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

“Most of life is unspectacular. By which I mean, most of life doesn’t dazzle us with non-stop special effects. But all of life — *all of life* — contains the sacred.”

Debie Thomas

PRELUDE “Jesus, Joy of Our Desiring” J.S. Bach

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS John Fieselmann, Liturgist

CHORAL INTROIT

* CALL TO WORSHIP (II Corinthians 4:6)
God said, “Let there be light;” and there was light.

And God saw that the light was good.

God who said, "Out of darkness the light shall shine!"

**is the same God who made light shine in our hearts
to bring us the knowledge of God's glory
shining in the face of Christ.**

[Unison]

Let us worship God.

* HYMN 473 "For the Beauty of the Earth" (vs. 1-4)

**For the beauty of the earth
For the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the wonder of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flower
Sun and moon and stars of light,
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the joy of ear and eye,
For the heart and mind's delight,
For the mystic harmony
Linking sense to sound and sight,
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above
For all gentle thoughts and mild,
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.**

***OPENING PRAYER**

O God, let us see the world lit by your divine presence.

When we do not see the beauty in the faces of those around us, give us the grace to see their faces shine with your image.

When life becomes so full of pressing matters we cannot look up to see your glory in all that surrounds us, let us find in the details of our lives the splendors of your work.

When life wanes and illness diminishes the light in which we live, fill us with the brightness of your healing energy.

When we are overwhelmed by forces stronger than ourselves, let us receive your touch so we may stand and not be afraid.

Light our lives and lead us on in mercy and in peace. Amen.

* CONGREGATIONAL REONSE (#161, vs. 1)

**As morning dawns, Lord, hear our cry.
O sovereign God, now hear our sigh.
As first light brings the sun's warm rays,
accept our sacrifice of praise.**

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Introductions: Kendall Heitzman, Roberta Marvin

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.

ANTHEM

“Anthem for Transfiguration”

Paul W. Hofreiter

TIME OF PRAYER

Prayers of the People

Silent Prayer

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 “Blessed Jesus, at Thy Word”

J.S. Bach

*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 are dismissed to Children's Church)

SCRIPTURE LESSON Exodus 24:12-18

The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and wait there; I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up onto the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come back to you. Look, Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them."

Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the Israelites. Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

PSALM 99

God is sovereign;

let the people tremble;

**God is enthroned upon the cherubim;
let the earth shake.**

The Sovereign God is great in Zion

and is high above all peoples.

**Let them confess the name of God, which is great and awesome;
the Sovereign God is the Holy One.**

"O mighty Sovereign, lover of justice, you have established equity;
you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob."

**Proclaim the greatness of our Sovereign God
and fall down before the footstool of the Holy One.**

Moses and Aaron among your priests,

and Samuel among those who call upon your name,

they called upon you, O God, and you answered them.

**You spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud;
they kept your testimonies and the decree that you gave them.**

O God, you answered them indeed;

you were a God who forgave them,

yet punished them for their evil deeds.

**Proclaim the greatness of our Sovereign God
and worship upon God's holy hill;
for the Sovereign God is the Holy One.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 17:1-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun,

and his clothes became bright as light. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I^[a] will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, the Beloved;^[b] with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

*HYMN 474 “O Splendor of God’s Glory Bright”

**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.**

**Come, Holy Sun of heavenly love,
Shower down Thy radiance from above,
And to our inward hearts convey
The Holy Spirit’s cloudless ray.**

**O joyful be the passing day
With thoughts as clear as morning’s ray,
With faith like noontide shining bright,
Our souls unshadowed by the night.**

**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!**

SERMON “Listening to Jesus, Looking at the World”

* HYMN 464 “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

**Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee,
Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!**

**All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
Earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
Center of unbroken praise;
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain
Call us to rejoice in Thee.**

**Mortals, join the happy chorus,
Which the morning stars began;
Love divine is reigning o'er us,
Joining all in heaven's plan.
Ever singing, march we onward,
Victors in the midst of strife;
Joyful music leads us sunward
In the triumph song of life.**

***BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE “Agincourt Hymn” John Dunstable

Minister:	The Rev. Bill Lovin
Director of Christian Education:	Hope Spragg
Organist:	Bill Crouch
Choir Director	Dr. Chris Nakielski
Children's Choir Director	Rachel Burchett
Office Manager	Nancy Leavessuer

TODAY

❖ Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am
Christian Education for All Ages	9:15 am
Worship Service	10:15 am
Coffee Hour	After Worship
Youth Group	4:00 pm

TUESDAY

❖ Gentle Yoga	Noon
Membership Board	5:30 pm
Trustees	7:00 pm

WEDNESDAY—ASH WEDNESDAY

❖ Staff Meeting	11:00 am
Soup Supper	5:30 pm
Worship	7:00 pm

THURSDAY

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| ❖ Women's Lunch—Mexico Lindo | 11:45 am |
| Prairie Piffari Rehearsal | 6:30 pm |

SATURDAY

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| ❖ Men's Breakfast | 8:00 am |
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NEXT SUNDAY

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|----------------------------------|---------------|
| ❖ Choir Rehearsal | 9:00 am |
| Christian Education for All Ages | 9:15 am |
| Worship Service | 10:15 am |
| Coffee Hour | After Worship |

WE'RE GLAD THAT YOU HAVE JOINED US FOR WORSHIP THIS MORNING.

Everyone is invited to Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall after worship.

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO GAVE TO THE SOUPER BOWL OF CARING LAST SUNDAY: We received \$270, all of which will go to the CommUnity Crisis Center Food Pantry.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW OFFICE MANAGER: The Church Council is happy to announce that we have hired a new office manager, Nancy Leavessuer. She will work 20 hours/week, from 9-1, Monday-Friday. Nancy started working last Monday, February 9. We invite members and friends to stop by the church office in the coming weeks to meet her.

OUR MISSION BOARD IS SPONSORING THE ADULT FORUM THROUGH FEBRUARY 22, EXPLORING LOCAL IMMIGRATION ISSUES. Our scheduled speakers are:

- February 15: Alejandra Escobar, Escucha Mi Voz
- February 22: Discussion Sunday

This series promises to be informative and interactive, addressing timely and important topics. We hope you will join us.

GENTLE YOGA every Tuesday at 11:00 a.m.! This 45-minute class is appropriate for beginners, experienced or anyone wishing to focus on body awareness, increased mobility, and relaxation. The \$10 suggested donation goes directly to the Immigrant Welcome Network. More information and sign-up are available in Rockwood Hall.

THE YOUTH GROUP MEETS THIS AFTERNOON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15, FROM 4-6 PM! All middle and high schoolers are invited to join us for food, fellowship and fun! Please bring any cake baking or decorating ingredients, as we will be making birthday cake kits for donation. (Cake mixes, pre-made frosting, aluminum pans, etc.)

ASH WEDNESDAY SUPPER AND WORSHIP SERVICE—THIS WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18: We'll gather to eat at 5:30, followed by the Ash Wednesday worship service at 7:00. Gather with your church family for a soup potluck, fellowship and worship. We hope you will join us. If you'd like to contribute to the meal, please sign up

online: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A084DA4A923A75-61501951-ashwednesday> or in Rockwood Hall. We only need a few food contributions, please join us either way!

MISSION BOARD LGBTQ+ SUBCOMMITTEE is looking forward to a year of learning, advocating and activism. Join us and mark your calendars for the following dates:

Monday, February 23: LGBTQ Day on the Hill- all day field trip to the State Capitol.

Agenda includes a morning session held at the State Historical Society of Iowa on the legislative process, current anti-LGBTQ+ bills impacting LGBTQ+ Iowans, how to take action and advocate for LGBTQ+ rights in Iowa. A march to the Capitol and rally in the rotunda follow in the afternoon with opportunities to meet with legislators. Contact Julie Wittig if you would like to join the carpool and for more information visit: <https://oneiowa.org/event/doth2026/>.

Registration deadline is February 13 to participate in the luncheon at the Capitol. Plan to leave from church at 8:00am, returning early evening.

Friday, May 1: Rainbow Graduation for the Pride Alliance Center- afternoon graduation ceremony for LGBTQ+ students will be held at our church. Details and opportunities to help will be announced soon.

Saturday, June 20: Iowa City Pridefest- 11:30am-4pm parade and booth shift opportunities will be available.

CHURCH PHOTO DIRECTORY: Our Membership Board photo directory is moving into its next stage. If you have some ability with desktop publishing and would like to help with this, please talk with Sue Dayton or Bill Lovin.

THE MEMBERSHIP BOARD IS ONCE AGAIN TAKING ORDERS FOR OUR CHURCH'S T-SHIRTS that have the church rainbow logo. Orders will be taken at church after worship this morning, February 15. Cost is \$20 per shirt. If you have any questions, call or text Martha Ann Crawford at 319-855-8340. Order forms will be available at a special table during coffee hour.

AFTER WORSHIP ENCOUNTER (AWE) WILL START UP AGAIN AFTER WORSHIP ON SUNDAY, MARCH 1. We will plan on two 5-week sessions. We will meet for 5 weeks and then take a break on Easter Sunday, April 5th. Generally, we gather on the Sundays that the choir meets after worship to rehearse for their Special Music Sunday on May 17th.

We will be using *Living the Questions: The Wisdom of Progressive Christianity*. In this study we will be meeting again progressive theologians that were introduced in the original Living the Questions series: Borg, Crossen, and Spong. This is a beginning class that will introduce you to Progressive Christianity.

Rev. Ann Molsberry will be leading the discussions. Please purchase your own book and for Sunday, March 1st read Chapter 8: Restoring Relationships (the first chapter of Section Two: Reconciliation). See you on Sunday, March 1st in the library!

OUR NEXT HOPE LODGE DINNER will be Monday, March 16 at 6:00 p.m. If you would like to donate to the meal, see the signup sheet in Rockwood Hall.

NO OTHER LAND: St. Andrew's Act Justly group invites you to a screening of *No Other Land*, a powerful and widely discussed 90-minute documentary exploring life in Gaza and Palestine

through deeply personal, on-the-ground storytelling. The event starts at 2:00 pm this afternoon, Sunday, February 15 in the Saint Andrew Sanctuary (140 Gathering Place Lane, Iowa City). The film will be followed by a facilitated conversation moderated by Rabbi Esther Hugenoltz and Rima Afifi, creating space for thoughtful reflection, honest questions, and respectful dialogue about justice, human dignity, and lived experience.

THE SHELTER HOUSE BOOK SALE will be held March 28 & 29 at 860 Quarry Road, Coralville from 10:30am-4:00pm both days. You can bring your donations of books, CDs, DVDs, and puzzles to that location starting today, Feb. 15. Donation times will be every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday from 10:00am-2:00pm, and Sundays from 2:00pm-4:00pm. Or drop your donations off in Rockwood Hall and we'll take them for you.

Many volunteers are needed to help sort books and help during sale days. Sign up to volunteer at: [Book Sale 2026: Community Volunteers](#).

USED MEDICINE BOTTLES NEEDED FOR REUSE IN CLINICS: 100 Grannies, a local environmental activist group, is sending used plastic medicine bottles to Africa to assist clinics in distributing medication. Donna Hirst is in charge of this project and would be pleased to have participation from members of the congregation. If you are interested, the labels from the plastic bottles need to be removed, and the bottles need to be washed in soapy water. More information will be in the church newsletter. Donna will pick up bottles on Sundays.

CARBON OFFSET HELPS HABITAT FOR HUMANITY: Have you ever wanted to compensate for CO2 emissions from a flight or other carbon intensive activity? Carbon offsets are a recognized way to make an activity carbon neutral. Carbon offsets are also often viewed with skepticism due to concerns about whether the money given is truly decreasing carbon emissions and whether the action would have happened without the donation.

Those concerns can be assuaged with a donation to put solar arrays on Habitat for Humanity homes. The homeowners do not have the resources to make an upfront investment in a solar array and once installed the system is likely to stay in place for the lifetime of the panels. In addition to reducing CO2 emissions the donor would be helping a low income Iowa family with their energy bills.

To estimate your flight emissions and send an offset to Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity go to www.habitatsolar.org/. Please contact Jamie McCoy or see the bulletin board in Rockwood Hall for more 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.