



“Heart of the World” by Mikhail Reva  
at the Odessa Children’s Hospital in Ukraine

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

WORSHIP FOR FEBRUARY 16, 2025  
SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

“In our own small ways most of us have witnessed miracles of healing; sometimes they have been miracles of selflessness, when we have truly listened to someone else. Listening is one of the greatest of all healing instruments, not listening with self-consciousness, but with complete focus on whoever needs to unburden grief or sin or betrayal. And then, usually, we are exhausted and need to go for a quiet walk alone.”

Madeleine L’Engle

PRELUDE “I Love to Tell the Story” Emma Lou Diemer

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ben Copeland, Liturgist

CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Draw near to God  
as God draws near to us.

**While we are seeking healing and wholeness**

**God is seeking to strengthen and restore us.**

[Unison]

**Let us worship God.**

\* HYMN 483, vs. 1-3 “Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above”

**Sing praise to God who reigns above,  
the God of all creation,  
the God of power, the God of love,  
the God of our salvation.**

**With healing balm my soul is filled  
and every faithless murmur stilled:  
To God all praise and glory!**

**What God’s almighty power hath made  
God’s gracious mercy keepeth;  
By morning glow or evening shade  
God’s watchful eye ne’er sleepeth;  
Within the kingdom of God’s might,  
Lo! all is just and all is right:  
To God all praise and glory!**

**The Lord is never far away,  
but through all grief distressing,  
an ever present help and stay,  
our peace and joy and blessing.  
As with a mother’s tender hand,  
God gently leads the chosen band:  
To God all praise and glory!**

\*OPENING PRAYER

**O God, in mystery and in silence you are present in our lives. Out of your great compassion, hear our prayers and heal us. Bind all our wounds, cure our ills of body and soul, make your broken people whole again. Bring new life out of destruction, hope out of despair, growth out of difficulty. Help us to welcome every healing as a sign that, though death is against us, you are for us. Amen.**

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#483, vs. 4)

**Thus all my gladsome way along,  
I sing aloud thy praises,  
that all may hear the grateful song  
my voice unwearied raises.  
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart,  
both soul and body bear your part:  
To God all praise and glory!**

ANTHEM “Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee” Mark Hayes

#### 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 “Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee” Fred Bock

\*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 40:28-31

#### PSALM 30

I will exalt you, O Lord,  
because you have lifted me up  
and have not let my enemies triumph over me.

**O Lord my God, I cried out to you,  
and you restored me to health.**

You brought me up, O Lord, from the dead;  
you restored my life as I was going down to the grave.

**Sing to the Lord, you faithful servants;  
give thanks for the remembrance of God's holiness.**

For God's wrath lasts but the twinkling of an eye,  
God's favor endures for a lifetime.

**Weeping may spend the night,  
but joy comes in the morning.**

While I felt secure, I said,  
"I shall never be disturbed.

You, Lord, with your favor, made me as strong as the mountains."

**Then you hid your face,  
and I was filled with fear.**

I cried to you, O Lord;  
I pleaded with the Lord, saying,

**"What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the pit?  
will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?"**

Hear, O Lord, and have mercy upon me;  
O Lord, be my helper."

**You have turned my wailing into dancing;  
you have put off my sack-cloth and clothed me with joy.**

[Unison]

**Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing;  
O Lord my God, I will give you thanks forever.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 4:38-41

SERMON "The Puzzle of Healing"

\*HYMN 376 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

**Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heaven to earth come down,  
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,  
All Thy faithful mercies crown!  
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,  
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;  
Visit us with Thy salvation,  
Enter every trembling heart.**

**Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit  
Into every troubled breast!  
Let us all in Thee inherit,  
Let us find that second rest;  
Take away the love of sinning;  
Alpha and Omega be;  
End of faith, as its beginning,  
Set our hearts at liberty.**

**Come, Almighty to deliver,  
Let us all Thy life receive;  
Suddenly return, and never,  
Nevermore Thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,  
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing,  
Glory in Thy perfect love.**

**Finish, then, Thy new creation;  
Pure and spotless let us be;  
Let us see Thy great salvation  
Perfectly restored in Thee;  
Changed from glory into glory,  
Till in heaven we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,  
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

**\*BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE “I Sing the Mighty Power of God” Alice Jordan

Cover Art: Reva, Mikhail. Heart of the World, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56476> [retrieved February 12, 2025]. Original source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Children\\_sculpture\\_by\\_Mikhail\\_Reva.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Children_sculpture_by_Mikhail_Reva.jpg).

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	Jenn Harden

**TODAY**

❖ Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am
Christian Education	9:15 am
Worship Service	10:15 am

**TUESDAY**

❖ Diaconate	7:00 pm
Trustees	7:00 pm

**THURSDAY**

❖ Women’s Lunch @ Tabooleh	Noon
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## NEXT SUNDAY

❖ Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am
Christian Education	9:15 am
Worship Service	10:15 am

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

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

**ADULT EDUCATION:** Join us around the fireplace in Rockwood Hall at 9:15 a.m. this Sunday, February 16. Fred Newell, Pastor of The Purpose Place and Founder/Director of Dream City will talk about the work of Dream City.

On 2/9/25 the Immigrant Welcome Network spoke to the church's Adult Education session. Below is the link to their website for more information. <https://www.iwnjc.org/>

Each year in January and February, our Mission Board plans Sunday morning Adult Education sessions that give us a chance to learn about the work that we are doing in our community and in the larger world. This year the Mission Board is helping us develop closer relationships with some of the Iowa City area organizations that we support. Join us each Sunday through February 23 in Rockwood Hall at 9:15 a.m. And because Lent starts so late this year (Ash Wednesday is March 5), there will be a special bonus session on Sunday, March 2!

**SOUPER BOWL OF CARING:** Thanks to everyone who gave to the **Souper Bowl of Caring** grassroots hunger relief initiative last Sunday. We received \$325.00, all of which will go to the CommUnity Crisis Center Food Pantry—so everybody won! Thanks again.

**BEN COPELAND'S SENIOR RECITAL** will be held on Saturday, March 1, at 5:30 pm in the Voxman Music Building Recital Hall. Everyone is invited.

**8-WEEK SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY:** The Rev. Ann Molsberry is offering an 8-week Bible study that promises to do the whole Bible in one 8-week sweep. We will use *The Unfolding Drama of the Bible* by Bernhard Anderson, a progressive introduction/overview of the whole Bible. **We will meet AFTER worship at 11:30 in the library on Sunday March 9<sup>th</sup>.** The choir will be having extended rehearsals after worship beginning Sunday March 9<sup>th</sup> to prepare Easter music and continue after Easter through Sunday, May 11<sup>th</sup>. We will schedule our 8-week study within that time-frame.

This is a beginner class that will appeal to the "choir widow/widowers", teachers, Confirmed youth, and college students. We have childcare. We will provide a sub-sandwich lunch at our first session and decide what to do for lunch (if anything) after that first session.

**Please purchase your own book (\$14.00...Amazon offers used copies for less.) and come to the class with the first chapter and Bible readings done.**

**THE WOMEN'S READING GROUP IS** reading *In the Sanctuary of Women* by Jan Richardson. Join us for discussion of chapter 1, "The Beginning of All Things: The Book of Eve," on Saturday, March 15, at 10 a.m. in front of the fireplace in Rockwood Hall.

**2025 NIGHT OF 1000 DINNERS:** Congregational UCC members and friends are invited to attend the **2025 Night of 1000 Dinners**, hosted by the Johnson County United Nations Association. This community celebration of International Women's Day will be held Thursday, March 6, 6:00-8:00 at the Unitarian Universalist Society.

**Theme.** Sustainable Development Goal #3 "Good Health and Well-Being." The event will honor and raise funds for two local groups and an international project. The honored groups serve the health and well-being of refugees and immigrants, both here in Johnson County and in Africa. Net proceeds will support JCUNA's educational work as well as Free Medical and Dental Clinic, Prairielands Freedom Fund, Healthy Start for Refugee Children, and will recognize the Coralville Public Library for its services to refugees/immigrants.

The event will include an international buffet, entertainment by local performers from varied cultural traditions and recognition of the honored groups. Contact Donna Hirst ([donna-hirst@uiowa.edu](mailto:donna-hirst@uiowa.edu)), member of the event steering committee, if you'd like to attend.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE 2025 SHELTER HOUSE BOOK SALE!** This two-day sale will be hosted on Saturday, March 8 and Sunday, March 9 from 10:30 am—4:00 pm both days at 860 Quarry Road (the old Antique Car Museum) in Coralville.

If you have gently used books, CDs, DVDs, vinyl records, and puzzles, you can drop those off during off at 860 Quarry Road in Coralville. Donation times will be *Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays* from 10:00 am-2:00 pm, and *Sundays* from 2:00 pm-4:00 pm from February 2 until the week of the sale. Now is the time to start going through your bookshelves and deciding which books you'll return to and which books have served their purpose and are ready to inform or entertain another lucky reader. If you have many books to donate, you can take them directly to the site. **YOU CAN ALSO BRING BOOKS TO THE CHURCH AND DROP THEM OFF IN ROCKWOOD HALL AND JOHN FIESELMANN OR DONNA HIRST CAN TAKE THEM FOR YOU.** (Please note, the sale cannot accept contributions of magazines, encyclopedias, reader's digest, books with no covers or water damage, moldy or musty books, textbooks, cassette tapes, or VHS tapes.)

[Click here](#) for all you need to know about the 2025 Book Sale!

Shelter House is looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help sort books, organize donations, and prepare the space for the big sale. There are more than one hundred slots that need to be filled: add your name to one today! Sign up today at [bit.ly/booksale2025](https://bit.ly/booksale2025).

**ART CONTEST:** The Climate Hope Art Contest that Izzy Brown won an honorable mention for last year is sponsored by the National UCC Center for Environmental Justice. This year's theme is "Planting Seeds of Hope". Sunday school lessons in February will feature stories and reflections on finding/creating hope in sustainability. Artwork may be 9" x 12" or 8.5" x 11" on any surface that can be scanned. Submit your artwork to Hope Spragg by March 7.

**CAN YOU HELP PROVIDE BREAKFAST?** To reduce single-use packaging and highly processed food in Sunday school-provided breakfasts, we are looking for help providing freshly baked or cooked breakfast items and fresh fruit. Label and drop off items in the refrigerator or kitchen the week before or in the morning before 9:05.

**FEBRUARY YOUTH GROUP, 5th GRADE THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL:** Sunday, February 23 from 4-7 PM, we will host our friends from 1st Presbyterian here at our church for supper, highly anticipated games, and fellowship! Discover the nooks and crannies of our big beautiful church with a game of hide-and-seek.

**CAMP STRONGHOLD:** Youth entering 6th-9th grade next year are invited to summer church camp June 8-13 (Sunday-Friday) at Camp Stronghold, along the Rock River just south of Rockford, IL. We will join First Presbyterian and Saint Andrews for a week at a 1930's castle on 360 acres including a swimming pool. Activities include Bible studies, singing, night games, skits and more! Cost is \$525 for the week and we plan on creatively funding partial scholarships for families and depending on interest, transportation will be included from the church. Link to brochure: [Click here for Camp Stronghold brochure](#). This is a wonderful opportunity we hope you will consider! If you are interested in (partially) sponsoring a youth to attend, contact Hope Spragg. Fun fact: Ask the Strang about the history of the camp!

**HELP WITH SLEEPING MATS STILL NEEDED:** With our winter weather just around the corner, the need for more sleeping mats for the homeless is growing! By contributing your plastic bags from your purchases we can help the homeless! Bring your clean, unneeded, plastic grocery bags, or similar plastic bags from your purchases here, to Rockwood Hall. We will see to it that they are delivered.

**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.