

# Finding the Good News in the Sermon on the Mount First Sunday in Lent



“Joyful Mountain—Paul Klee (Public Domain)

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

WORSHIP FOR FEBRUARY 18, 2024  
FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

“If we reflect on the first three beatitudes, we can already see hints of how to understand the next six. Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness are those who understand dependence and obligation, loss and memory, power and responsibility. To demand righteousness...should also bring us to mercy.”

Amy-Jill Levine

PRELUDE “Prelude in B Minor,” Op. 48, No. 16 Josef Renner

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chuck Connerly, Liturgist

CHORAL INTROIT

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 25)**

To you, O God, I lift my heart.

In you I trust.

**Make your paths known to me, Lord;  
teach me your ways.**

All the paths of the Lord are loving and sure;

**Let integrity and uprightness protect me;  
in you, Lord, I put my hope.**

**\*HYMN 360 "Hope of the World" (vs. 1-4)**

**Hope of the world, thou Christ of great compassion,  
speak to our fearful hearts by conflict rent.**

**Save us, thy people, from consuming passion,  
who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.**

**Hope of the world, God's gift from highest heaven,  
bringing to hungry souls the bread of life,  
still let thy Spirit unto us be given  
to heal earth's wounds and end her bitter strife.**

**Hope of the world, afoot on dusty highways,  
showing to wandering souls the path of light;  
walk thou beside us, lest the tempting byways  
lure us away from thee to endless night.**

**Hope of the world, who by thy cross didst save us  
from death and dark despair, from sin and guilt;  
we render back the love thy mercy gave us;  
take thou our lives, and use them as thou wilt.**

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

**Eternal God, we come to you with hungry hearts, waiting to be filled:**

**waiting to be filled with a sense of your presence;**

**waiting to be filled with the grace of your Spirit;**

**waiting to be filled with new energy for service.**

**Come to us, we pray.**

**Be with us.**

**Grace us.**

**Empower us as your people that we might worship you here and act in the world for Jesus' sake. Amen.**

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#360, vs. 5)

**Hope of the world, O Christ, o'er death victorious,  
Who by this sign did conquer grief and pain,  
We would be faithful to Thy gospel glorious;  
Thou art our Lord! Thou dost forever reign!**

ANTHEM     “Awake, My Heart”                   Jane Marshall

#### 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     “Siciliana”     William Walond

\*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

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

SCRIPTURE LESSON     Isaiah 51:1-5

PSALM 33:1-5, 22

Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous;  
it is good for the just to sing praises.

**Praise the Lord with the harp;  
play upon the psaltery and lyre.**

Sing for the Lord a new song;  
sound a fanfare with all your skill upon the trumpet.

**For your word, O Lord, is right,  
and all your works are sure.**

You love righteousness and justice;  
your loving-kindness, O Lord, fills the whole earth.

**Let your loving-kindness, O Lord, be upon us,  
as we have put our trust in you.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON      Matthew 5:1-12

SERMON      “On Not Being a Rattlesnake”

\*HYMN 419    “How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord”

**How clear is our vocation, Lord,  
When once we heed Your call:  
To live according to Your word,  
And daily learn, refreshed, restored,  
That You are Lord of all  
And will not let us fall.**

**But if, forgetful, we should find  
Your yoke is hard to bear,  
If worldly pressures fray the mind  
And love itself cannot unwind  
Its tangled skein of care:  
Our inward life repair.**

**We mark Your saints, how they became  
In hindrances more sure,  
Whose joyful virtues put to shame  
The casual way we wear Your name,  
And by our faults obscure  
Your power to cleanse and cure.**

**In what You give us, Lord, to do,  
Together or alone,  
In old routines or ventures new,  
May we not cease to look to You--  
The cross You hung upon--  
All You endeavored done.**

\*BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE    “Fugue in A Minor”    William Boyce

Cover Art: “Joyful Mountain”—Paul Klee, 1929. Public Domain.

“Hope of the World” Georgia Harkness, Words - ©1954, 1982 Hymn Society in the US & Canada, Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-715458. All rights reserved.

“How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord,” Words - ©1982 Hope Publishing Company. Contributors: Fred Pratt Green. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-715458. All rights reserved.

Minister:	The Rev. Bill Lovin
Director of Children’s Programs:	The Rev. Ann Molsberry
Organist:	Bill Crouch
Choir Director	Dr. Chris Nakielski
Children’s Choir Director	Majesty Constable
Office Manager	Jenn Harden

#### TODAY

- ❖ Church School Breakfast
- Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am
- Christian Education 9:15 am
- Worship Service 10:15 am
- Potluck Lunch After Worship
- “A Look at LGBTQ+ History in Iowa City”
- Choir Rehearsal 11:30 am

#### TUESDAY

- ❖ Diaconate 6:00 pm
- Trustees 7:00 pm

#### NEXT SUNDAY

- ❖ Church School Breakfast 9:00 am
- Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am
- Christian Education 9:15 am
- Worship Service 10:15 am
- Choir Rehearsal 11:30 am
- Youth Group 4:00 pm

**WE’RE GLAD THAT YOU HAVE JOINED US FOR WORSHIP THIS MORNING.**  
Everyone is invited to Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall after worship.

#### IMPORTANT DATES IN LENT AND EASTER

**February 18—First Sunday in Lent**

**March 3—Third Sunday in Lent; Communion Sunday**

**March 24—Palm Sunday**

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

**March 28—Maundy Thursday**

Communion and Service of Tenebrae at 7:00 p.m.

**March 29—Good Friday**

Worship at Noon

**March 31—Easter Sunday**

Sunrise Service at 7:30 a.m.; Breakfast in Rockwood Hall; Festival Easter Service at 10:15 a.m.

**JENN HARDEN** will be out of the office on Monday.

**"A LOOK AT LGBTQ+ HISTORY IN IOWA CITY:"** The Mission Board invites you to stay for a potluck lunch after worship this morning this presentation by David McCartney, Congregational UCC member and retired University of Iowa archivist. David's information is designed to provide a foundation for future WE'RE STILL LEARNING sessions and to broaden understanding for longtime Iowa City residents and anyone new to the area. This is the first in the **WE'RE STILL LEARNING** series planned by the Mission Board LGBTQ subcommittee for the entire congregation. After considerable deliberation about relevant issues and educational opportunities, the committee came to the conclusion that as a group and as individuals *all are still learning* about relevant LGBTQ+ issues and ever-changing challenges.

**ADULT EDUCATION FOR LENT LOOKS AT THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT:** Next Sunday we will start a five-session series, *Sermon on the Mount: A Beginner's Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven*, using material by the New Testament scholar, Dr. Amy-Jill Levine. Join Bill Lovin in Rockwood Hall, Sunday mornings at 9:15 from February 25 through March 24. A second session will be held during the week. TBA—talk with Bill if you are interested.

**CONTRIBUTE TO THIS YEAR'S LENTEN DEVOTIONAL:** We're inviting members and friends to write a short, one paragraph reflection on a word or phrase from the Sermon on the Mount—we'll provide the words, you'll provide the reflection. If you are interested in being a part of this or have any questions, please contact Bill at [uccicrev@uccic.org](mailto:uccicrev@uccic.org) or call the church office at 337-4301 or call Patte Henderson at 594-7185 or Bryan Clemons at 330-7882. Easter is Sunday, March 31.

**THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO GAVE TO THE SOUPER BOWL OF CARING**—a grassroots hunger relief initiative. Members and friends had the opportunity to vote for their favorite and the results are in: San Francisco: \$157; Kansas City: \$112; Taylor Swift: \$148; for a Total of \$417. Everyone wins, however, as all the money received will go to the CommUnity Crisis Center Food Pantry.

**IOWA FACES THE '60'S—A TALK BY CUCC MEMBER AND PROFESSOR EMERITUS, SCHOOL OF PLANNING AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS, CHUCK CONNERLY**  
Thursday, February 22, 2024, 4:00 pm; Kollros Auditorium--101 Biology Building East. As Iowa entered the 1960s, it faced issues that reflected the transition from an agricultural, rural state to one that had become majority urban with consequent tensions between its urban and rural communities—tensions that continue to this day. At the same time, Iowa's food-based economy seemed increasingly out of sync with a national economy driven proportionately less by the consumption of food and more by growing consumer demand for homes, cars, televisions, hi-fis, and clothes—items that the Iowa food-based economy did not produce to a significant degree. The talk will focus on these changing conditions as well as the key policy responses and debates that would characterize Iowa politics and public policy into the 1960s. The talk

represents the first part of the Chuck's current book project-- *Iowa in the 1960s: Politics, Public Policy, and Governance in an Era of Change*.

**THE BLACK VOICES PROJECT IS HOLDING THE 2024 HENRI HARPER SOULFOOD DINNER** on Feb. 23, 6-9 pm at the Terry Trueblood Center. Admission is free and all are welcome. Former Iowa City resident, Henri Harper is an inductee of the Iowa African American Hall of Fame and the founder of the youth organization, FasTrac, which Congregational UCC supported for many years.

**ANOTHER WAY TO HELP THE HOMELESS:** Trinity United Methodist Church of Riverside Iowa has purchased a loom and is using clean, plastic bags to construct Sleeping Mats for the homeless. These are lightweight, waterproof, and easy to pack and carry. By contributing our clean, plastic bags, we can help them help others. Bring your clean, unneeded, plastic grocery bags, or trash bags, any color, any size, 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/154m7852>. The recordings remain up permanently, so you can watch past worship services at your convenience or recommend them to a friend.