



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

WORSHIP FOR FEBRUARY 26, 2023
FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

PRELUDE “Trio in G Minor, Op. 19 No. 1” Josef Rheinberger

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS , Liturgist

CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

We have gathered in the presence of God our creator,
Who sets before us the ways of life and death.

**We have gathered in the presence of Jesus the Christ,
Who calls us to accept the cost of discipleship
That we may know its joy.**

We have gathered in the presence of the Spirit,
Who sustains us in trial and rejoicing.

[Unison]

**In our living and in our dying,
We belong to God.
In the shadow of God’s wings,
We sing for joy.**

Let us worship God.

HYMN 207 “How Lovely, Lord”

**How lovely, Lord, how lovely
is your abiding place;
my soul is longing, fainting,
to feast upon your grace.
The sparrow finds a shelter,
a place to build her nest,
and so your temple calls us
with in its walls to rest.**

**In your blest courts to worship,
O God, a single day
is better than a thousand
if I from you should stray.
I'd rather keep the entrance
and claim you as my Lord
than revel in the riches
the ways of sin afford.**

**A sun and shield forever
are you, O Lord Most High;
you shower us with blessings;
no good will you deny.
The saints, your grace receiving,
from strength to strength shall go,
and from their life shall rivers
of blessing overflow.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We confess, O God, what we are:

we are not the people we like others to think we are;

we are afraid to admit even to ourselves what lies in the depths of our souls.

But we do not want to hide our true selves from you. We believe that you know us as we are, and yet you love us. Help us not to shrink from self-knowledge; teach us to respect ourselves for your sake; give us the courage to put our trust in your guiding power.

We also confess to you, O God, the unrest of the world, to which we contribute and in which we share. Forgive us that so many of us are indifferent to the needs of other men and women. Forgive our reliance on weapons of war, our discrimination against people of different races, and our preoccupation with material standards.

Raise us out of the paralysis of guilt into the freedom and energy of forgiven people. And for those who through long habit find forgiveness hard to accept, we ask you to break their bondage and set them free; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#298, vs. 1&2)

**There's a wideness in God's mercy, Like the wideness in the sea;
There's a kindness in God's justice, Which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows Are more felt than up in heaven;
There is not place where earth's failings Have such kindly judgment given.**

**For the love of God is broader Than the measure of the mind;
And the heart of the Eternal Is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful, We would gladly trust God's Word;
And our lives reflect thanksgiving For the goodness of our Lord.**

ANTHEM

“Be Merciful, O Lord”

William Ferris

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

“Andantino”

M.G. Fischer

*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

Ecclesiastes 8:10-13

PSALM 32

Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!

**Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.

**For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

When I acknowledged my sin to you,
and did not conceal my guilt.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord."

Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

**Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

You are my hiding-place;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

**"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.**

Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle,
or else they will not stay near you."

**Great are the tribulations of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.**

Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 4:1-11

SERMON "True Wisdom, Part 1: Knowledge of Ourselves"

*HYMN (insert) "By Gracious Powers"

**By gracious powers so wonderfully sheltered,
and confidently waiting, come what may,
we know that God is with us night and morning
and never fails to greet us each new day.**

**Yet is this heart by its old foe tormented,
still evil days bring burdens hard to bear;
O give our frightened souls the sure salvation
for which, O Lord, you taught us to prepare.**

**And when this cup you give is filled to brimming
with bitter suffering, hard to understand,
we take it thankfully and without trembling,
out of so good and so beloved a hand.**

**Yet when again in this same world you give us
the joy we had, the brightness of your sun,
we shall remember all the days we lived through,
and our whole life shall then be yours alone.**

*BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE “Toccatà in C Minor “ Johann Pachelbel

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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

TODAY

❖ First Sunday in Lent Worship	10:15 am
Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am
Christian Education for All Ages	9:15 am
Children’s Church	During Worship
Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall	After Worship
Choir Rehearsal	11:15 am

THIS WEEK

❖ Tuesday	Staff Meeting	Noon
	Church Council	7:00 pm
❖ Wednesday	Bible Study	7:00 pm

NEXT SUNDAY

❖ Second Sunday of Lent Worship	10:15 am
The Sacrament of Communion	
Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am
Christian Education for All Ages	9:15 am
Children’s Church	During Worship
Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall	After Worship
Choir Rehearsal	11:15 am

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.

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!**

LOOK FOR THIS YEAR'S LENTEN DEVOTIONAL arriving daily in your In Box. The Season of Lent is a time for reflecting as we seek to grow in knowledge of ourselves and in the knowledge of God (what John Calvin called "true and sound wisdom"). Each day there will be a new reflection from a member on the texts primarily from the "Wisdom Literature" of the Old Testament (Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes) and the Gospels and Epistles of the New Testament. Thanks to Patte Henderson and Bryan Clemons for coordinating this project of the Diaconate.

OUR NEW BIBLE STUDY HAS BEGUN: During the season of Lent, Bill Lovin is leading a Bible study looking at the book of Ecclesiastes. As with our other studies in recent years, this is held on Zoom (to allow for interstate and international participation) and meets on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:30. We will explore two chapters of Ecclesiastes each week 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.

HOPE LODGE: our next Hope Lodge dinner will be March 20. See the sign-up sheet in Rockwood Hall or contact Sue Dayton with questions.

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.

CPR AND AED TRAINING: We will be offering free CPR and AED training to the congregation over the next few months. The training will consist of watching two 2-minute videos, watching demonstrations of CPR and AED use and getting the chance to practice. Trainings will be offered at various times. Sign up on the sheets in Rockwood Hall (Under the Upcoming Events Bulletin) and Dianne Atkins will set up the schedule to make sure everyone gets a chance. Weekday and evening sessions will be in March and April, Sundays after worship will start in May. You can learn to save a life in just a few minutes.

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

JOIN THE JOHNSON COUNTY UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION FOR "NIGHT OF 1000 DINNERS," an international buffet on International Women's Day to honor local organizations advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, at 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 8, 2023, at Mercer Park Aquatic Center & Scanlon Gym, 2701 Bradford Drive, Iowa City.

This year's theme is Sustainable Development Goal #15: Life on Land. The event will honor Grow: Johnson County, Field to Family, and Great Plains Action Society. The program will feature international music, dance, spoken-word performances, and some surprises. The event will have in-person and virtual options. Tickets are \$25 for community members or \$10 for students. Donate or purchase tickets [here](#). You will have an option to purchase an in-person or virtual ticket. Ticket purchasers and donors will receive a Zoom link for the event.

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.

IMPORTANT DATES IN LENT AND EASTER

- March 5—Second Sunday in Lent; Communion Sunday
- April 2—Palm Sunday—Worship with Distribution of Palms; One Great Hour of Sharing Offering
- April 6 Maundy Thursday—Worship in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.; Communion and Service of Tenebrae
- April 7, Good Friday—Worship in the Sanctuary at Noon
- April 9, Easter Sunday—Festival Easter Service in the Sanctuary at 10:15 a.m.
- April 30—Spring Choir Music Sunday
- Study of Ecclesiastes, each Wednesday: March 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29