



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

WORSHIP FOR FEBRUARY 5, 2023
FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Today is a communion Sunday. If you are joining us online, before the worship service, you are invited to assemble what you will eat and what you will drink. It can be bread and grape juice or wine or as simple as a cracker or rice cake and water for use in our worship.

““Faith, while personal, is never private...The gift each person has been given is meant to be shared.”

Karen Stokes

PRELUDE

“Prelude in B-Flat Major, Op. 48 No. 9”

Josef Renner

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bea Hicks, Liturgist

CHORAL INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 107)

O give thanks to God, who is good;
whose steadfast love endures forever.

**For God satisfies the thirsty,
and fills the hungry with good things.**

*HYMN 470 (verses 1-3) "O Day of Radiant Gladness"

**O day of radiant gladness, O day of joy and light,
O balm of care and sadness, most beautiful, most bright;
This day the high and lowly, through ages joined in tune,
sing "Holy, holy, holy" to the great God Triune.**

**This day at the creation the light first had its birth;
This day for our salvation Christ rose from depths of earth;
This day our Lord, victorious the Spirit sent from heaven,
And thus this day most glorious a triple light was given.**

**This day God's people meeting, the Holy Scripture hear;
Christ's living presence greeting, through bread and wine made near.
We journey on, believing, renewed with heavenly might,
From grace more grace receiving on this blessed day of light.**

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer: you provide for every living thing.

You give us our daily bread and enough to share with others.

You offer us the bread of life.

We confess that we misuse your good gifts and our gratitude is slight.

Out of our desire for more, we have pushed the earth to its limits.

Our hungry hearts are never satisfied.

Forgive us.

**Help us to recover our place in the midst of creation and to discover what will sustain us in
respecting this world. Amen.**

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#470, vs. 4)

**That light our hope sustaining, upon the pilgrim way,
at length our rest attaining, our endless Sabbath day.**

**We sing to you our praises, our Hope, our Joy, our Sun:
the church its voice upraises to you blessed Three in One.**

ANTHEM “The Call” David Ashley White

SERVICE OF GIVING

Invitation

Offertory “Moderato” Jacques Lemmens

*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

(The children are dismissed to Children’s Church)

SCRIPTURE LESSON I Kings 3:5-14

PSALM 119: 129-136

Your decrees are wonderful;
therefore I obey them with all my heart.

**When your word goes forth it gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple.**

I open my mouth and pant;
I long for your commandments.

**Turn to me in mercy,
as you always do to those who love your name.**

Steady my footsteps in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion over me.

**Rescue me from those who oppress me,
and I will keep your commandments.**

Let your countenance shine upon your servant
and teach me your statutes.

**My eyes shed streams of tears,
because people do not keep your law.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON I Corinthians 12:4-11

SERMON “Concerning Gifts”

THE LORD’S SUPPER

INVITATION

HYMN 515 “Now, to Your Table Spread”

**Now to your table spread
We come, each one in faith**

**That You alone provide the words of life and death:
In wine and bread,
On promised food
We find Your loving heart, O God.**

**Hands of the world stretch out
Your mystery to touch
In longing to believe a truth beyond our reach,
To sing in joy,
To cry in grief,
To know Your meaning for our life.**

**Here is our common wealth
In sharing what is good,
As though all humankind around one table stood,
This bread to break,
This wine to taste:
One people in the name of Christ.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

THANKSGIVING FOR BREAD AND CUP

**We thank you, O Christ,
that scattered though we are, with different needs and hopes
you call us together at this meal and unite us as one body.**

**We thank you for this bread and cup set before us,
food and drink to nourish us in body and in spirit, signs of your life-giving love.
May they speak to us
of the everyday made holy,
of life made new,
of hope for your realm among us.**

We remember that on the night of his arrest...

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF BREAD AND CUP

(Communion will be served in the pews today. Please receive the bread or cup as they are offered to you by a deacon. Hold it until all have been served, and we will eat and drink together at the pastor's guidance. We serve grape juice, not wine. Gluten-free wafers are on the trays with the bread. In the Congregational United Church of Christ, we celebrate the Lord's Supper with openness and welcome. Everyone is invited to the table, regardless of church membership or denominational affiliation.)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Gracious God,
as we have come to this table for strength,
send us out filled with your love.
that we may meet the needs of the world that awaits us. Amen.**

***HYMN (insert) “God of Change and Glory”
(You can view and download a copy of the words and music of this hymn [here.](#))
God of change and glory, God of time and space,
When we fear the future, give to us your grace.
In the midst of changing ways give us still the grace to praise.**

**Refrain:
Many gifts, one Spirit, one love known in many ways.
In our difference is blessing, from diversity we praise
One Giver, one Lord, one Spirit, one Word
Known in many ways, hallowing our days.
For the Giver, for the gifts, praise, praise, praise!**

**God of many colors, God of many signs,
You have made us different, blessing many kinds.
As the old ways disappear, let your love cast out our fear.**

**Freshness of the morning, newness of each night,
You are still creating endless love and light.
This we see, as shadows part, many gifts from one great heart.**

***BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE “Voluntary in D Major” William Herschel

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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.

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!**

WE WELCOME YOUR HELP WITH THIS YEAR'S LENTEN DEVOTIONAL: 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"). Last year's online daily reflections were very well received by the congregation. Again this year, individuals and/or families are invited to consider a Biblical text and share your thoughts. The theme is "Gaining a Heart of Wisdom," and the texts will be primarily from the "Wisdom Literature" of the Old Testament (Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes) and the Gospels and Epistles of the New Testament. Patte Henderson, Bryan Clemons, and Bill Lovin are coordinating the development of these reflections. We're inviting members and friends to write a short, one paragraph reflection on a particular Biblical text—we'll provide the text, 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 or call the church office at 337-4301 or call Patte at 594-7185 or Bryan at 330-7882.

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. It will help with planning if you sign up on the sheet in Rockwood Hall or call the church office (337-4301) to let us know how many will attend. But please join us even if you haven't done this.

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 kdrichards1958@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.

