



John August Swanson—"The Great Catch"

CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
30 N. CLINTON ST.  
IOWA CITY, IA 52245  
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WORSHIP FOR FEBRUARY 6, 2022  
FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

"To see yet deeper into the abyss of our own transgressions takes prophetic courage. It is easier to blame God and neighbor than to seek a deeper, more painful look at our own shortcomings as the avenue on which justice will be found and confirmed around us."

Christopher Seitz

PRELUDE "How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord" Robert J. Powell

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Your name, O God, is exalted over all things,  
and your word goes forth to the ends of the earth.

**When we call to you, O God, you answer,  
and preserve our lives in the midst of trouble.**

You stretch out your hand to deliver us,  
and fulfill your purposes through us.

**We will sing of the ways of God,  
for great is the glory of God forever.**

HYMN 138 “Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!”

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;  
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!**

**Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore Thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,  
Who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.**

**Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide Thee,  
Though the eye of sinfulness Thy glory may not see,  
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee  
Perfect in power, in love, and purity.**

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All Thy works shall praise Thy Name, in earth, and sky, and sea;  
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!**

## OPENING PRAYER

**O God, in mystery and silence you are present in our lives, bringing new life out of  
destruction, hope out of despair, growth out of difficulty. We thank you that you do not  
leave us alone but labor to make us whole. Help us to attend to the gentle guidance of your  
Spirit, that we may know the joy you give to your people. Amen.**

## TIME OF GRATITUDE

ANTHEM “O Sing unto the Lord” Peter Aston

## 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

SCRIPTURE LESSON      Isaiah 6:1-8

PSALM 138

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart;  
before the gods I will sing your praise.

**I will bow down toward your holy temple  
and praise your name, because of your love and faithfulness;**

for you have glorified your name  
and your word above all things.

**When I called, you answered me;  
you increased my strength within me.**

All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O Lord,  
when they have heard the words of your mouth.

**They will sing of the ways of the Lord,  
that great is the glory of the Lord.**

The Lord is high, yet the Lord cares for the lowly  
and perceives the haughty from afar.

**Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe;  
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;  
your right hand shall save me.**

[Unison]

**O Lord, you will make good your purpose for me;  
O Lord, your love endures forever;  
do not abandon the works of your hands.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON      Luke 5:1-11

SERMON                  “Too Close for Comfort”

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

CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE      “Holy, Holy, Holy”      Piet Post

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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 required for all people in all parts of the building. We will keep

social distance in the pews. While there is no coffee hour, worshippers may talk with each other in Rockwood Hall as they leave.

**WE ARE NOW LIVE STREAMING 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.

**FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP SERVICES**—If you would like to contribute flowers for the worship services on upcoming Sundays please call the office to let Jenn know or sign up on the sheet in Rockwood Hall.

**WE WELCOME YOUR HELP WITH THIS YEAR'S LENTEN DEVOTIONAL.** The Lenten season for reflecting and rejoicing is coming! As we prepare, the opportunity for individuals and/or families to consider a Biblical text and share your related thoughts is available. Patte Henderson, Bryan Clemons, and Bill Lovin are coordinating the development of a Lenten Devotional Book similar to those from years past. We're inviting members and friends to write a short reflection on a particular Biblical text—we'll provide the text, you 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 at 594-7185.

**BILL LOVIN WILL BE ON VACATION** from February 7 through February 20. The Rev. Bob Molsberry will be preaching on February 13 and 20.

**THE SHELTER HOUSE BOOK SALE** is scheduled for March 26-27. Book donations and volunteer sorting will begin February 14, at the Old Antique Car Museum – 860 Quarry Road, Coralville.

Our church has historically been a strong supporter of this sale. At the last sale we earned \$21,000 for Shelter House, working side by side with many other community volunteers. Please begin to get your book donations ready and drop them off beginning February 14. If you need someone to pick up your donations, someone from the volunteer team can come to your home. Donations can be dropped off at Rockwood Hall and a volunteer can take them to the sale site. John Fieselmann and Donna Hirst are members of the Planning Committee and can answer any questions you have.

**Church Board Opportunities** There are still some opportunities to serve the church on one of our boards. There are openings on the Membership and Stewardship boards. Please contact Barb Sisley at (319) 430-2694 or [sisleywebb@aol.com](mailto:sisleywebb@aol.com) if you are interested in or want more information about any of these opportunities.

**PETITION FOR AMENDMENTS TO IOWA'S NEW VOTING LAWS:** The League of Women Voters of Iowa and eight Iowa-based co-sponsors will present petitions to the leadership of the 89th General Assembly at Iowa's Capitol. The petition, which contains signatures of Iowa voters, urges legislators to repeal sections of the newly-enacted voting laws. Iowa's new voter laws make voting harder, disqualifies voters more easily, shortens the voting time by 31%, makes elections more difficult to administer, and invites interference by political parties in elections. [Registered voters can sign the petition online.](#)

*Co-sponsors of the petition include: League of Women Voters of Iowa; Common Good Iowa; Des Moines Chapter, The Links, Incorporated; Episcopal Diocese of Iowa; Iowa Chapters of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc.; Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault; Iowa Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO; Interfaith Alliance of Iowa Action Fund; and Sierra Club Iowa Chapter.*



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The graphic features a light beige background with a green trapezoidal shape at the bottom. On the left, a blue speech bubble contains the text 'Spread the love' in white and yellow. In the center, two anthropomorphic jars are shown: one with orange nut butter and one with pink jelly, both with faces, arms, and legs. To the right is a blue starburst icon. Below the jars, the text 'Spread the Love in February' and 'Donate Nut Butters & Jelly' is written in blue. At the bottom, a green button-like shape contains the text 'Learn more and donate by clicking here!' in green.

We're joining with CommUnity Crisis Center to Spread the Love this month. Bring your donations of PB&J, etc., and put them in the BIG JIF JAR in Rockwood Hall. Thanks again!