



“The Great Catch” by John August Swanson

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

WORSHIP FOR FEBRUARY 9, 2025
FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

“Ultimately there is no such thing as failure. There are lessons learned in different ways.”
Twyla Tharp

PRELUDE “Aria” Simon Clark

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Anna Mary Mueller, Liturgist

CHORAL INTROIT

* CALL TO WORSHIP

The Psalmist says: “God makes all things new.”

**And so, we come today to say:
“Yes, make all things new.”**

We long to be comforted.
We long for words to heal.
We long for something new to open a way.
And so, we come today and say:
“Yes, make all things new.”

***HYMN (insert) “Jesus Calls Us”**

**Jesus calls us: o'er the tumult
Of our life's wild, restless sea,
Day by day his voice is sounding,
Saying, "Christian, follow me."**

**As of old, Saint Andrew heard it
By the Galilean lake,
Turned from home and toil and kindred,
Leaving all for his dear sake.**

**Jesus calls us from the worship
Of the vain world's golden store,
From each idol that would keep us,
Saying, "Christian, love me more."**

**In our joys and in our sorrows,
Days of toil and hours of ease,
Still he calls, in cares and pleasures,
"Christian, love me more than these."**

***OPENING PRAYER**

Merciful God, whose care never ceases, we come to you as we are. We are tired from trying to do more than we can manage. We are anxious about problems which go unresolved. We are worried about events beyond our control.

For mistakes we cannot redeem, for tasks left undone, for uncertain goals, we need your forgiveness and ask for your understanding. For recovery of strength and enthusiasm, we pray for your Spirit. For fullness of life, generous hearts, and resilient souls, we pray to be followers of Christ Jesus. In your mercy, restore us and lead us. Amen.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

**Jesus calls us: by your mercies,
Savior, may we hear your call,
Give our hearts to your obedience,
Serve and love you best of all.**

ANTHEM “Oh, Praise Ye the Lord” arr. Paul Lohman

SERVICE OF GIVING

Invitation

Offertory "Interlude" Starling Goodwin

*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 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 "Beyond Failure, Beyond Forgiveness"

*HYMN 361 "How Firm a Foundation"

**How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!**

**What more can be said than to you God hath said,
To you, who for refuge to Jesus have fled?**

**"Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
For I am thy God and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.**

**"When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
For I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless,
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.**

**"When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
My grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply;
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.**

**"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake."**

***BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE "Maestoso" John Worgan

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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

CE Board Meeting 11:30 am

TUESDAY

❖ Mission Board 7:00 pm

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 9, Mazahir Sahir, Executive Director of the Immigrant Welcome Network, will be our guest. Next Sunday, February 16, Fred Newell, Pastor of The Purpose Place and Founder/Director of Dream City will talk about the work of Dream City.

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: Today we are participating in the **Souper Bowl of Caring**, a grassroots hunger relief initiative. Whether you're watching the game and eating some of the 65 million avocados that Americans will eat that day or not, we encourage you to join in putting some money in the soup kettles that the young people of our congregation will have both upstairs and downstairs after worship. The original request with this project was to give \$1.00 if you were watching the game. Now—whether you're watching or not, give whatever you'd like. All money will go to the CommUnity Crisis Center Food Pantry.

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. Our congregation has 5 free tickets. Contact Donna Hirst (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, **starting Sunday, February 2**. 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.

AT EASTER, IT HAS BEEN OUR TRADITION TO DISPLAY ALL KINDS OF SPRING FLOWERS on the chancel. Bulbs need to be planted soon to bloom in time. Would you be willing to plant, tend and then display a pot of flowers on Easter? Please contact Barb Sisly (319-430-2694, sisleywebb@aol.com) or Rebecca Weatherford (319-621-6862, weatherfordr1776@gmail.com) if you'd like to help so we can order enough bulbs. We'll have instructions for you, so no experience necessary!

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.