



Martin Creed, *Don't Worry*

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

WORSHIP FOR MARCH 13, 2022  
SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

“Birds and lilies are an example for the followers of Christ. ‘Man-in-revolt’ imagines that there is a relation of cause and effect between work and sustenance, but Jesus explodes that illusion. According to him, bread is not to be valued as the reward for work; he speaks instead of the carefree simplicity of the person who walks with him and accepts everything as it comes from God.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

PRELUDE                    “Voluntary in D Minor”                    William Croft

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Isaiah 49)

To all who are imprisoned,

**God says, "Go free."**

To all who are living in the shadows,

**God says, "Come out into the open."**

To all who hunger and thirst,

**God gives food and springs of water.**

To all who are far away,

**God makes smooth the way home.**

God will not forget us,

**we are inscribed on the palms of God's hands.**

\* HYMN 352 "Great Are Your Mercies"

**Great are Your mercies, O my Maker,**

**Food and raiment You freely bestow.**

**Let me praise You always, Serve You all my days.**

**You the spring wind, I the grass; On me blow!**

**Be not so anxious, O disciples,**

**What you daily eat and what you wear.**

**Our Maker sees and knows All our wants and woes.**

**Humbly let us work and trust God's great care.**

**Birds of the air fly here and yonder,**

**Lilies bloom, arrayed by nature thus;**

**They sow not, nor reap in, Neither do they spin.**

**Yet our Maker cares for them. More for us!**

**Could Solomon in all his glory**

**Match these brilliant birds and lovely flowers?**

**Disciples, do not fret; God's love fails not yet.**

**This world is made for your home, Yours and ours.**

OPENING PRAYER

**Merciful God, what a gentle and healing balm it is to come to you with our secret thoughts, our sad discouragements, and our noblest dreams, and find you hear to listen, to forgive, and to renew us. Slow to trust, afraid of the unknown, we are cautious to hear and do your will. We pray for ears to hear the cries of our neighbors and for hearts which resonate with your Spirit. Make us patient with our mistakes, even as we are willing to forgive others. And remind us that we are also precious, not because we are good but because you have accepted us and called us to be your very own. Amen.**

SOLO

**"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"**  
Kevin Koepnick

Robert Robinson/Wyeth

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.**

SERVICE OF GIVING

Invitation

Offertory                      Adagio - John Alcock

\*Response

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God, all creatures here below,  
Praise God above, you heavenly hosts  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\*Prayer of Dedication

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

SCRIPTURE LESSON        Isaiah 49:8-16a

PSALM 131

O Lord, my heart is not lifted up,  
my eyes are not raised too high.

**I do not occupy myself with thing too great,  
or things too marvelous for me.**

But I still my soul and make it quiet,  
like a weaned child with its mother;  
my soul is quieted within me.

**O Israel, wait upon the Lord,  
from this time on and forevermore.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON        Matthew 6:24-34

SERMON        "Strive for These Things"

\*HYMN (insert)        "Before the Cross of Jesus"

**Before the cross of Jesus  
Our lives are judged today;  
The meaning of our eager strife  
Is tested by his way.  
Across our restless living  
The light streams from his cross,**

And by its clear, revealing beams  
We measure gain and loss.

The hopes that lead us onward,  
The fears that hold us back,  
Our will to dare great things for God,  
The courage that we lack,  
The faith we keep in goodness,  
Our love, as low or pure -  
On all, the judgment of the cross  
Falls steady, clear, and sure.

Yet humbly, in our striving,  
O God, we face its test.  
We crave the power to do your will  
With him who did it best.  
On us let now the healing  
Of his great Spirit fall,  
And make us brave and full of joy  
To answer to his call.

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE           “Voluntary in A Minor - William Boyce

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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.

**A SPECIAL OFFERING TO SUPPORT THE UKRAINIAN CRISIS RESPONSE FUND OF CHURCH WORLD SERVICE** will be received during worship this morning. Our Mission Board is calling for this offering to help provide humanitarian assistance to people displaced as a result of the violence and bolster partners in Europe to serve the most vulnerable. More information can be found at [www.cwsglobal.org/appeals/ukraine-crisis-response-fund/](http://www.cwsglobal.org/appeals/ukraine-crisis-response-fund/)

**THE CHURCH COUNCIL IS FORMING A SAFETY COMMITTEE** to review building security and related issues. If you would like to be a part of this important work, please talk with Tom Mittman or call the church office at 319-337-4301.

**LENT BIBLE STUDY LOOKS AT LUKE:** A new Bible study is looking at the ministry of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke. Together we watch what Jesus does, listen to what he says, and go where he goes. All of this will lead to an exploration of the last week of his life near the end of the Gospel. We meet together by Zoom at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday evenings through April 6.

Since the summer of 2020 we have studied several books of the Bible through free-flowing and honest discussions. Please consider being a part of this study as we move together through Lent. If you are interested or have questions, please call Bill Lovin at the church (319-337-4301) or email him at [uccicrev@uccic.org](mailto:uccicrev@uccic.org).

**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING:** On Palm Sunday, April 10, we will dedicate our One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering. This offering has long been an important part of the life of our congregation. For many years now, we have been on the list of Top 100 giving churches.

This year's theme, "Love Remains," comes from Paul's well-known words: "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." (1 Cor. 13:13) In a world where communities are being displaced by the catastrophes of war, famine, and natural disaster, our congregation joins with many others in standing in faith, hope, and love with those who seek to move beyond the trauma of displacement toward the promise of healing and peace. Your generous gift will support the relief work of not only the UCC but also many other denominations united in caring for refugees, in providing medical care, and in disaster recovery efforts. You can watch videos about the work that OGHS makes possible [by clicking here:](#)

Let us join in this great tradition and give generously, not because we have to, but because we can.

**THE SHELTER HOUSE BOOK SALE** will be held March 26-27. Book donations and volunteer sorting have begun 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! 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.



Want to give online? Scan the QR code for our giving app.  
Your giving makes a world of difference.

**CONSULTATION OF RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES: SPOTLIGHT ON ANTISEMITISM**—Wednesday, March 16, 10-10:30 AM on Zoom

In January, the hostage crisis at the synagogue in Colleyville, Texas brought to light the rising antisemitism in the U.S. and around the world. What role and responsibility do all faith communities share in addressing antisemitism in its many forms today? Join us for this important topic, featuring Rabbi Esther Hugenholtz from Agudas Achim Congregation

The program will include:

- Personal reflections from Rabbi Esther Hugenholtz
- Definitions and brief history of antisemitism
- Overview of the ongoing security and safety concerns for Jewish people and synagogues
- Ideas for advocacy and action

If you are not already on CRC's email list, you may email [barrjohn@sau.edu](mailto:barrjohn@sau.edu) for the Zoom link.

**THE RECONCILIATION MINISTRY OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, IOWA CITY, INVITES YOU TO JOIN THEM FOR A ZOOM DISCUSSION ON THE SITUATION IN UKRAINE** with: Viktor Soloviov,\* Misha Soloviov, Olga Dunbay, and Veronica Tessler this afternoon, Sunday, March 13 at 1:00-2:00 pm

**Join Zoom Meeting:** <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85754209645>

**Meeting ID: 857 5420 9645**

\***Viktor Soloviov** has research experience in public administration. For three years he was a State Coordinator of the NATO Building Integrity program in the Security and Defense Sector when he worked in the National Security and Defense of Ukraine (2010-2014).

Viktor received his BA in Law with Honours in 2002 and defended his PhD in 2006. He conducted post-doctoral research from 2013 to 2017, and had a part-time Professorship at Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv. He is currently a PhD student at the University of Iowa. He also lectured in: the Diplomatic Academy of Ukraine at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, the National Academy for Public Administration under the President of Ukraine, and the National School of Judges of Ukraine, etc.

We will also hear from other Ukrainian immigrants, noted above.

*We hope you can join us!*

**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.