



Reply with Love to
Love Most High

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

WORSHIP FOR MARCH 2, 2022
A SERVICE FOR THE BEGINNING OF LENT

Did you not know
what the Holy One
can do with dust?
Jan Richardson

PRELUDE

INTROIT
Now quit your care
and anxious fear and worry;
For schemes are vain
and fretting brings no gain;
Lent calls to prayer,
to trust and dedication;
God brings new beauty nigh.
Reply, reply, reply with love to Love most high.

CALL TO WORSHIP
Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord;
Lord, hear my voice;
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.

**If you, Lord, were to note what is done amiss,
O Lord, who could stand?**

For there is forgiveness with you;
therefore you shall be revered.

**I wait for you, O Lord; my soul waits for you;
in your word is my hope.**

OPENING PRAYER

God of grace, through love you have made us, and for love you call us to repentance and new life. Your forgiveness is fresh every day. Strengthen our prayers and our acts of tenderness. Help us to face our mortality, that we may reach with confidence for your mercy. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and give us your Holy Spirit that we may serve you with willing hearts, bearing witness to your abundant compassion in all the world. Amen.

HYMN 223 “O My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer” (vs. 1,2,4, &6)

**O my soul, bless your Redeemer;
All within me, bless God's Name;
Bless the Savior, and forget not
All God's mercies to proclaim;**

**God forgives all your transgressions,
All diseases gently heals;
God redeems you from destruction,
And with you so kindly deals.**

**As it was without beginning,
So it lasts without an end;
To their children's children ever
Shall God's righteousness extend:**

**Bless your Maker, all you creatures,
Ever under God's control,
All throughout God's vast dominion;
Bless the Lord of all, my soul!**

OPENING WORDS

SCRIPTURE LESSON Genesis 2:4b-9

PSALM 30

I will exalt you, O Lord,
because you have lifted me up
and have not let my enemies triumph over me.

**O Lord my God, I cried out to you,
and you restored me to health.**

You brought me up, O Lord, from the dead;
you restored my life as I was going down to the grave.

Sing to the Lord, you faithful servants;

give thanks for the remembrance of God's holiness.

For God's wrath lasts but the twinkling of an eye,
God's favor endures for a lifetime.

**Weeping may spend the night,
but joy comes in the morning.**

While I felt secure, I said,
"I shall never be disturbed.

You, Lord, with your favor, made me as strong as the mountains."

**Then you hid your face,
and I was filled with fear.**

I cried to you, O Lord;
I pleaded with the Lord, saying,

**"What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the pit?
will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?"**

Hear, O Lord, and have mercy upon me;

O Lord, be my helper."

**You have turned my wailing into dancing;
you have put off my sack-cloth and clothed me with joy.**

[Unison]

**Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing;
O Lord my God, I will give you thanks forever.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 9:9-13

SOLO "Hope of the World" Georgia Harkness
Chris Nakielski, soloist

SERMON

HYMN "Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ"

**Eternal Spirit of the living Christ,
I know not how to ask or what to say;
I only know my need, as deep as life,
and only you can teach me how to pray.**

**Come, pray in me the prayer I need this day;
help me to see your purpose and your will,
where I have failed, what I have done amiss;
held in forgiving love, let me be still.**

**Come with the vision and the strength I need
to serve my God, and all humanity;
fulfillment of my life in love outpoured --
my life in you, O Christ, your love in me.**

INVITATION TO THE OPPORTUNITY AND JOY OF LENT

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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 contented souls, we pray to be followers of Christ Jesus. In your mercy, restore us and lead us. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#360, vs. 4)

**Hope of the world, who by thy cross didst save us
from death and dark despair, from sin and guilt;
we render back the love thy mercy gave us;
take thou our lives, and use them as thou wilt.**

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

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.

DEDICATION

We remember Jesus' compassionate searching for the outcasts of society, and pray for a similar compassion;

We remember Jesus' conflict with the powers of evil, and pray for the same courage to stand against what is wrong;

We remember Jesus' refusal to be bound by the past, and pray that we may use this freedom for ourselves and honor it in others;

We remember the way Jesus showed God's love for all creation, and pray that we may mediate his love and power in our own time.

HYMN “Now Quit Your Care”
**Now quit your care
and anxious fear and worry;
For schemes are vain
and fretting brings no gain;
Lent calls to prayer,
to trust and dedication;
God brings new beauty nigh.
Reply, reply, reply with love to Love most high.**

**To bow the head
in sackcloth and in ashes,
Or rend the soul---
such grief is not Lent's goal;
But to be led
to where God's glory flashes,
His beauty to come near.
Make clear, make clear,
make clear where truth and light appear.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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

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IMPORTANT DATES IN LENT AND EASTER

(As with all things as the pandemic continues, these dates, times, and places are subject to change.)

- March 2—Ash Wednesday: Pancakes at 6:00; Worship Service at 7:00 p.m.

- March 6—First Sunday in Lent: Communion Sunday
- April 10—Palm Sunday: Worship with Distribution of Palms, One Great Hour of Sharing Offering
- April 14 Maundy Thursday: Worship in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.; Communion and Service of Tenebrae
- April 15, Good Friday: Worship in the Sanctuary at Noon
- April 17, Easter Sunday: Festival Easter Service in the Sanctuary at 10:15 a.m.