



CAST YOUR BREAD UPON
THE WATERS, FOR AFTER
MANY DAYS YOU WILL
FIND IT AGAIN.

- ECCLESIASTES 11:1

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

WORSHIP FOR MARCH 26, 2023
FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

“When we cast our bread upon the waters, we can presume that someone downstream whose face we will never know will benefit from our action, as we who are downstream from another will profit from that grantor's gift.”

Maya Angelou

PRELUDE

“Jesus, I Will Ponder Now” Paul Manz

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ginny Clemons, Liturgist

CHORAL INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Lamentations 3:22-23)

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;

God's mercies never come to an end.

They are new every morning,

your faithfulness, O God, is great.

You, O Lord, are good to those who wait for you,

to all those who seek you.

*HYMN 83 "O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High" (vs. 1-4)

O love, how deep, how broad, how high,

How passing thought and fantasy,

That God, the Son of God, should take

Our mortal form for mortals' sake!

For us baptized, for us He bore

His holy fast and hungered sore;

For us temptations sharp He knew,

For us the tempter overthrew.

For us to evil power betrayed,

Scourged, mocked, in purple robe arrayed,

He bore the shameful cross and death,

For us gave up His dying breath.

For us He rose from death again;

For us He went on high to reign;

For us He sent His Spirit here,

To guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.

*OPENING PRAYER

Holy and ever-living God, by your power we are created and by your love we are redeemed. Open our ears to hear your voice and follow your call; open our hearts that true justice and wisdom may abound; and open our hands that peace might prevail on earth. In Christ, you give us a friend and a guide through the shadow of death who leads us into light that we may fear no evil. Strengthen us by your Spirit, that we may give ourselves to your service and live this day in love toward one another and toward you; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#83, vs. 5)

All glory to our Lord and God

For love so deep, so high, so broad:

**The Trinity whom we adore
Forever and forevermore.**

ANTHEM “Psalm 130” Paul O. Manz

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

SERVICE OF GIVING

Invitation

Offertory “Lento” Thomas Attwood

*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 Ecclesiastes 11:1-10

PSALM 112

Hallelujah!

Happy are they who fear the Lord
and have great delight in the Lord's commandments!

**Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

Wealth and riches will be in their house,
and their righteousness will last forever.

**Light shines in the darkness for the upright;
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

It is good for them to be generous in lending
and to manage their affairs with justice.

**For they will never be shaken;
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;
their heart is right; they put their trust in the Lord.

**Their heart is established and will not shrink,
until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

They have given freely to the poor,
and their righteousness stands fast forever;
they will hold up their head with honor.

**The wicked will see it and be angry;
they will gnash their teeth and pine away;
the desires of the wicked will perish.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 6:1-4

SERMON “The Wisdom of Generosity”

* 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!**

*BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE “Fugue” Johannes Diebold

Opening Prayer—alt. from *A New Zealand Prayer Book*

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

TODAY

- ❖ Fifth Sunday of Lent Worship 10:15 am
 - Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am
 - Christian Education for All Ages 9:15 am
 - Children's Church During Worship
 - Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall After Worship
 - Choir Rehearsal 11:15 am

THIS WEEK

- ❖ Tuesday
 - Staff Meeting Noon
 - Church Council 7:00 pm
- ❖ Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 pm
- ❖ Saturday Agape Café Fundraiser 7:30-11:30 a.m.
at Old Brick

NEXT SUNDAY

- ❖ Palm Sunday Worship 10:15 am
 - One Great Hour of Sharing Offering
 - Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am
 - Christian Education for All Ages 9:15 am
 - Children's Church During Worship
 - Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall After Worship
 - Choir Rehearsal 11:15 am

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 welcome. 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.

IMPORTANT DATES IN LENT AND EASTER

- April 2—Palm Sunday—Worship with Distribution of Palms; One Great Hour of Sharing Offering
- April 6 Maundy Thursday—Worship in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.; Communion and Service of Tenebrae
- April 7, Good Friday—Worship in the Sanctuary at Noon
- April 9, Easter Sunday—Festival Easter Service in the Sanctuary at 10:15 a.m.
- April 30—Spring Choir Music Sunday
- Study of Ecclesiastes, each Wednesday: March 29

FLOWERS FOR EASTER BRING COLOR TO THE SANCTUARY: Each year on Easter Sunday members and friends of Congregational UCC provide flowers for the sanctuary in memory of loved ones or to honor someone. Because so many people enjoy the burst of color, our Diaconate invites you to bring any type of spring flower—lilies, yes, but also consider tulips, daffodils, crocuses, or any other spring flower. *If you would like to have the name(s) of those remembered in the Easter Sunday bulletin, please get that information to the church office (337-4301) by Tuesday, April 4.*

AGAPE CAFÉ ANNIVERSARY FUNDRAISER, APRIL 1: Every Wednesday, the [Agape Café](#) serves a free, hot, breakfast dine-in or to-go for our neighbors in the Iowa City area experiencing homelessness and/or food insecurity. In celebration of their 30th anniversary, you can experience the Cafe for yourself by attending their in-person fundraiser at Old Brick, on Saturday, April 1, from 7:30 -11:30. A group from Congregational UCC will meet at Old Brick at 8:30—please join us.

THE SHELTER HOUSE BOOK SALE ENDS TODAY: There's still time to stock up on new-to-you books, today until 4:00pm, at 860 Quarry Road, Coralville.

A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF SANDY BOYD will be held on Friday, April 7 at 2:00 p.m. at Hancher Auditorium. ALL ARE WELCOME. A reception will follow and parking will be available.

CPR AND AED TRAINING: We will be offering free CPR and AED training to the congregation over the next few months. The training will consist of watching two 2-minute videos, watching demonstrations of CPR and AED use and getting the chance to practice. Trainings will be offered at various times. Sign up on the sheets in Rockwood Hall (Under the Upcoming Events Bulletin) and Dianne Atkins will set up the schedule to make sure everyone gets a chance. Weekday and evening sessions will be in March and April, Sundays after worship will start in May. You can learn to save a life in just a few minutes.

DO YOU HAVE A CHURCH KEY? (We know, it's an old joke, but it never gets tired, does it?) We have recently made new keys and are working at getting a better list of people who have keys. If you have a key to the church, please contact Trustee Chairperson, Kevin Richards, at (608) 807-7195 or at kd Richards1958@gmail.com. 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 or Trustee Chairperson, Kevin Richards, know right away. You can reach Kevin at (608) 807-7195 or at kd Richards1958@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. 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.