



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

WORSHIP FOR MARCH 27, 2022
FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

“If you are in a relationship and you don’t have any communication, then that relationship is not going to grow. I think of prayer, clearly, as being in the acknowledged presence of God. I am aware that I am only because God is, and that God has brought me into being, and that I depend totally, and utterly, on this God who loves me.”

Desmond Tutu

PRELUDE “Voluntary in A Minor” John Stanley

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

God hears our voices in the morning
and hearkens to the sound of our cries.

**God know the intention of our hearts
and is not deceived by actions that seem noble.**

We are not here to boast, but to pray,
and to glory only in the love of God.

**God pours out steadfast love in abundance
and leads us in the ways of righteousness.**

HYMN 479 “Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven”

**Praise, my soul, the God of heaven;
glad of heart your carols raise;
rescued, healed, restored, forgiven
who, like me, should sing God's praise?
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise the Maker all your days!**

**Praise God for the grace and favor
shown our forebears in distress;
God is still the same forever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Sing our Maker's faithfulness!**

**Like a loving parent caring,
God knows well our feeble frame;
gladly all our burdens bearing,
still to countless years the same.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
All within me, praise God's name!**

**Angels, teach us adoration,
you behold God face to face;
sun and moon and all creation,
dwellers all in time and space.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise with us the God of grace!**

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, you breathed into dust the spirit of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Your love for all that you made is without end. Through these lengthening days, continue to call forth our prayers and acts of tenderness, and strengthen us to face our mortality, that we may reach with confidence for your mercy, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ANTHEM “Like as the Hart Desireth the Waterbrooks” Herbert Howells

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 “Largo” Maurice Greene

*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 Genesis 3:1-14

PSALM 139

Lord, you have searched me out and known me;
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.

**You trace my journeys and my resting-places
and are acquainted with all my ways**

Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.

**You press upon me behind and before
and lay your hand upon me.**

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

**Where can I go then from your Spirit?
where can I flee from your presence?**

If I climb up to heaven, you are there;
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.

**If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,**

even there your hand will lead me
and your right hand hold me fast.

If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me,

and the light around me turn to night,"
darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day;
darkness and light to you are both alike.

**How deep I find your thoughts, O God!
how great is the sum of them!**

If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand;
to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.

**Search me out, O God, and know my heart;
try me and know my restless thoughts.**

[Unison]

**Look well whether there be any wickedness in me
and lead me in the way that is everlasting.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 15:1-10

SERMON "Hide and Seek"

*HYMN (insert) "By Gracious Powers"

**By gracious powers so wonderfully sheltered,
and confidently waiting, come what may,
we know that God is with us night and morning
and never fails to greet us each new day.**

**Yet is this heart by its old foe tormented,
still evil days bring burdens hard to bear;
O give our frightened souls the sure salvation
for which, O Lord, you taught us to prepare.**

**And when this cup you give is filled to brimming
with bitter suffering, hard to understand,
we take it thankfully and without trembling,
out of so good and so beloved a hand.**

**Yet when again in this same world you give us
the joy we had, the brightness of your sun,
we shall remember all the days we lived through,
and our whole life shall then be yours alone.**

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE "Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven" Timothy Flynn

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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.

IMPORTANT DATES IN LENT AND EASTER

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

- April 3—Fifth 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: Early Service 8:00 a.m.; Easter Breakfast; 8:30 a.m.; Festival Easter Service in the Sanctuary at 10:15 a.m.

“The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come . . .” (Song of Solomon 2:12)
PLEASE HELP “SHOWER” THE SANCTUARY WITH FLOWERS: Starting the first Sunday in April, the 3rd, please feel empowered to bring flowering plants to fill the sanctuary by Easter. If the Easter lilies, tulips, crocus or daffodils are a memorial for a loved one, please let the office know.

COFFEE HOUR RESUMES AFTER WORSHIP ON SUNDAY, APRIL 3. The Deacons will once again be serving coffee—and, yes, donut holes—after worship. Rockwood Hall will be open for conversation. Masks will be optional.

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO GAVE TO THE SPECIAL OFFERING TO SUPPORT THE UKRAINIAN CRISIS RESPONSE FUND OF CHURCH WORLD SERVICE. We have received over \$3,000 for this offering to help provide humanitarian assistance to people displaced as a result of the war and bolster partners in Europe to serve the most vulnerable. More information can be found at www.cwsglobal.org/appeals/ukraine-crisis-response-fund/. You can still give—please put “Church World Service” on the memo line of your check.

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: We are 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. There's still time to join the group. 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.

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.



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

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.

THE SHELTER HOUSE BOOK SALE concludes today at the Old Antique Car Museum – 860 Quarry Road, Coralville.

PLEASE JOIN COMMUNITY'S [6TH ANNUAL HUNGER BANQUET](#) on Thursday, April 21 at the Coralville Hyatt Regency. Doors open at 5:00, program begins at 6:30. This is a unique event that gives participants a glimpse at the scope of financial hardship and hunger in Johnson County. During this event, guests will be assigned to represent real Johnson County income demographics, which will determine the meal they receive. 13% of attendees will represent 19,600 neighbors experiencing food insecurity. **If you're ready to make a difference in the lives of local families who struggle with hunger, please register to attend the 6th Annual Hunger Banquet by Friday, April 15.** Because Congregational UCC is a sponsor of this event we have 3 seats left at a table. If you are interested in attending, please talk with Chuck Dayton, Laurie Stunz, or Bill Lovin or call the church office at 319-337-4301. We need to let Community know the names of those attending. Registration deadline is April 15th. Please consider joining us in this cause.