

Easter Worship



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

WORSHIP FOR MARCH 31, 2024
EASTER SUNDAY

“It may be impossible to reconstruct the women’s experience and interpretation of the death of Jesus, the empty tomb, and his appearances. But their witness is the bedrock of Christian faith.”

Jane Schaberg

PRELUDE “Prelude & Fugue in B-Flat Major,” BWV 560 J.S. Bach

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Hope Spragg, Liturgist

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

CHORAL INTROIT “An Easter Introit” Richard Slater

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

The sun rises

On a world renewed

The sun rises

To the cry “Alleluia!”

Give thanks to the Lord who is good!

God’s steadfast love endures forever!

And Christ that was dead

Is raised to life

Christ that suffered

Has overcome the world

[Unison]

We rise, risen Christ, to greet you.

***HYMN** “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today” EASTER HYMN

“Christ the Lord is risen today, “Alleluia!

All creation join to say: Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs high; Alleluia!

Sing, O heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!

Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!

Death in vain forbids Christ rise, Alleluia!

God has opened paradise, Alleluia!

Hail, the Lord of earth and heaven! Alleluia!

Praise to You by both be given; Alleluia!

Every knee to You shall bow, Alleluia!

Risen Christ, triumphant now. Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!

Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!

Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!

Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

***OPENING PRAYER**

Creator God, creating still, we come before you seeking to be a people of the resurrection.

Be known among us; give us the assurance of your presence, and renew us with the

unexpected joy of this day. Look upon all those whose lives are so burdened the joy of

resurrection cannot break in. With your strength, help us accompany them so they may

also enter this new day. May each one of us with all our difficulties and opportunities go forward in faith and hope. As a people reveal to us our common purpose. Amen.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#118, vs. 30)

Now let the heavens be joyful!

Let earth the song begin!

**Let the round world keep triumph,
and all that is therein!**

**Let all things seen and unseen
their notes in gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord is risen,
our joy that hath no end.**

ANTHEM “Alleluia” Peter Bloesch

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 “Fugue in C Major” Dietrich Buxtehude

*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

CHILDRENS MESSAGE

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

SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 52:7-10, 13-15

PSALM 118:1-2, 14-24

Give thanks to the Lord, who is good,
whose mercy endures forever.

**Let Israel now proclaim,
"The mercy of the Lord endures forever."**

The Lord is my strength and my song

and has become my salvation.

**There is a sound of exultation and victory
in the tents of the righteous:**

"The right hand of the Lord has triumphed!
the right hand of the Lord is exalted!
the right hand of the Lord has triumphed!"

**I shall not die, but live,
and declare the works of the Lord.**

The Lord has punished me sorely
but did not hand me over to death.

**Open for me the gates of righteousness;
I will enter them;
I will offer thanks to the Lord.**

"This is the gate of the Lord;
those who are righteous may enter."

**I will give thanks to you, for you answered me
and have become my salvation.**

The same stone which the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

**This is the Lord's doing,
and it is marvelous in our eyes.**

[Unison]

**This is the day God has made;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 24:1-12

* HYMN 122 "Thine Is the Glory"

**Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won;
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.**

Refrain:

**Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.**

**Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let the church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing,
for the Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting. [Refrain]**

**No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;
life is naught without thee: aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love:
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above. [Refrain]**

SERMON “Away from the Tomb, Into the World”

*HYMN 111 “Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing”

**Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!
Now is the triumph of our King!
To all the world glad news we bring:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**The Lord of life is risen today!
Bring flowers of song, bedeck the way;
Let every tongue rejoice and say:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Praise we in songs of victory
That love, that life which cannot die,
And sing with hearts uplifted high:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Thy name we bless, O risen Lord,
And sing today with one accord
The life laid down, the life restored:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE “On Emmaus’ Journey”

POSTLUDE “Ceremonial March” Herbert Sumsion

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The Call to Worship is adapted from the Church of Scotland Weekly Worship.

Opening Prayer altered and adapted from *A Call to Prayer*, ed. by Caryl Micklem.

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Minister:	The Rev. Bill Lovin
Director of Children’s Programs:	The Rev. Ann Molsberry
Organist:	Bill Crouch
Choir Director	Dr. Chris Nakielski
Children’s Choir Director	Majesty Constable
Office Manager	Jenn Harden

TODAY

- ❖ Easter Sunrise Service 7:30 am
Breakfast Follows
- Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am
- No Christian Education
- Festival Worship Service 10:15 am

TUESDAY

- ❖ Board of Christian Education 6:30 pm
- Mission Board 7:00 pm

NEXT SUNDAY

- ❖ Church School Breakfast 9:00 am
- Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am
- Christian Education 9:15 am
- Worship Service 10:15 am
- Choir Rehearsal 11:30 am

WE'RE GLAD THAT YOU ARE WORSHIPPING WITH US THIS MORNING. Everyone is invited to Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall after worship.

FLOWERS ARE GIVEN TODAY BY Dianne Atkins & Andy Bertolatus in memory of their parents, Mabel & John Bertolatus and Eugenia and Joseph Atkins, and Tim and Marsha Lowe in honor of Juli Goerend and Doreen Lowe.

THIS MORNING'S ANTHEM, "ALLELUIA," was written by Congregational UCC member, Peter Bloesch, and is dedicated to "The choir of the Congregational United Church of Christ of Iowa City."

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO GAVE TO OUR ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING: We have received over \$2950 so far—and there's still time to give! 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. 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. Thanks again!

THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD IS ACTIVELY SEARCHING FOR A NEW DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION. A complete job description will be posted on the church website. Advertising will commence by the end of March. Members of the congregation are encouraged to spread the word and have interested persons contact Rev. William Lovin uccicrev@uccic.org and Sally Strang sallystrang@mchsi.com.

A NEW MEMBER CLASS will be held in April. If you are interested in joining Congregational UCC or would like to know more about us, we invite you to attend these sessions. For more information, please talk with Bill Lovin or call the church office, 337-4301.

SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, April 28, the Membership Board is hosting a Spring Brunch following the Special Music service. During this time, we will recognize members who joined the church this past year. The brunch will be catered. So, no need to bring anything. To help us plan, we would like to get an approximate count of how many people will attend. Please indicate on the sign-up sheets in Rockwood Hall if you plan to attend and how many may be coming with you. We are looking forward to this time to celebrate spring and enjoy beautiful music.

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.

ANOTHER WAY TO HELP THE HOMELESS: Trinity United Methodist Church of Riverside Iowa has purchased a loom and is using clean, plastic bags to construct Sleeping Mats for the homeless. These are lightweight, waterproof, and easy to pack and carry. By contributing our clean, plastic bags, we can help them help others. Bring your clean, unneeded, plastic grocery bags, or trash bags, any color, any size, here, to Rockwood Hall. We will see to it that they are delivered.

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/154m7852>. The recordings remain up permanently, so you can watch past worship services at your convenience or recommend them to a friend.