



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

WORSHIP FOR APRIL 12, 2026  
THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

*Welcome to Congregational UCC. We are glad that you are here this morning. While we affirm that God speaks to us in many ways, we ask that you silence your cell phone as you enter the sanctuary. Please use the time during the prelude to quietly prepare for worship.*

**LARGE PRINT BULLETINS ARE AVAILABLE. PLEASE ASK AN USHER.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chuck Connerly, Liturgist

Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen, indeed!**

PRELUDE “I Know that My Redeemer Lives” Gerhard Krapf

CHORAL INTROIT

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

God calls us to worship, **AND WE COME!**

Some with laughter and songs of joy.

God calls us to worship, **AND WE COME!**

Some from a sense of obligation or habit.

God calls us to worship, **AND WE COME!**

Some with hearts heavy with grief.

God calls us to worship, **AND WE COME!**

Some with distraction or exhaustion.

God calls us to worship, **AND WE COME!**

Some with eagerness or enthusiasm.

God calls us to worship, **AND WE COME!**

Some with stress, loneliness or depression.

As God's dearly loved children, we bring all our joy and pain, hurt and hope

Into this place of Spirit-given grace, love, and hope.

**LET US WORSHIP GOD!**

**\*HYMN 119 "The Strife Is O'er"**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**The strife is o'er, the battle done,  
The victory of life is won;  
The song of triumph has begun. Alleluia!**

**The powers of death have done their worst,  
But Christ their legions hath dispersed;  
Let shouts of holy joy outburst. Alleluia!**

**The three sad days are quickly sped.  
Christ rises glorious from the dead:  
All glory to our risen Head! Alleluia!**

**Lord, by Your wounds on Calvary  
From death's dread sting Your servants free,  
That we may live eternally. Alleluia!**

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

**God of the risen Jesus,**

**We praise you for the great love that you have shown to redeem us by sending your Son Jesus. Help us today to embrace the New Life that the resurrected Christ is giving us. A Life beyond our doubts, faith over fear, courage over confusion, belief over disbelief, and trust to follow your guidance. As we worship today, help us to feel the presence of resurrected Jesus in our midst, reminding us of your love and our purpose.**

**Amen.**

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#469, v. 3)

**Mine is the sunlight, Mine is the morning  
Born of the one light Eden saw play  
Praise with elation, praise every morning  
God's recreation of the new day!**

ANTHEM "The Day of Resurrection" Thomas Matthews

#### TIME OF PRAYER

Prayers of the People

Silent Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

**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 "Awake, My Heart, with Gladness" Rudolf Moser

\*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

(The children are dismissed to Children's Church)

#### SCRIPTURE LESSON I Peter 1: 1-8

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To the exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who have been chosen and destined by God the Father and sanctified by the Spirit to be obedient to Jesus Christ and to be sprinkled with his blood: May grace and peace be yours in abundance.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy,

PSALM 16:4-9

Those who run after other gods  
shall have their troubles multiplied.

**Their libations of blood I will not offer,  
nor take the names of their gods upon my lips.**

O Lord, you are my portion and my cup;  
it is you who uphold my lot.

**My boundaries enclose a pleasant land;  
indeed, I have a goodly heritage.**

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel;  
my heart teaches me, night after night.

**I have set the Lord always before me;  
because you are at my right hand I shall not fall.**

[Unison]

**My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;  
my body also shall rest in hope.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON John 20:19-22

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.

SERMON "New Life"

\*HYMN # 487 "When Morning Gilds the Skies"

**When morning gilds the skies,  
My heart awaking cries:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!  
Alike at work and prayer  
To Jesus I repair:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!**

**Does sadness fill my mind?  
A solace here I find:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!  
Or fades my earthly bliss?  
My comfort still is this:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!**

**Let earth's wide circle round  
In joyful notes resound:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!  
Let air and sea and sky**

**From depth to height reply:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!**

**Be this, while life is mine,  
My canticle divine:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!  
Be this the eternal song  
Through all the ages long:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!**

\*BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE            “O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing!”            Clément Loret

Cover Graphic: LeCompte, Rowan and Irene LeCompte. Christ shows himself to Thomas, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=54879> [retrieved April 6, 2026].  
Original source: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/maryannsolari/5119341372/> Used with permission.

Minister:	The Rev. Bill Lovin
Director of Christian Education:	Hope Spragg
Organist:	Bill Crouch
Choir Director	Dr. Chris Nakielski
Children’s Choir Director	Rachel Burchett
Office Manager	Nancy LeaVesseur

TODAY

❖ Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am
Christian Education for all ages	9:15 am
Worship Service	10:15 am
Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall	After Worship

TUESDAY

❖ Gentle Yoga	11:00 am
---------------	----------

THURSDAY

❖ Women’s Lunch	11:45 am
Prairie Piffari Rehearsal	6:30 pm

SATURDAY

❖ Men’s Breakfast	8:00 am
Agape Café Fundraiser Concert	4:00 pm

NEXT SUNDAY

❖ Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am
-------------------	---------

Christian Education for all ages	9:15 am
Worship Service	10:15 am
Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall	After Worship
Choir Rehearsal	11:30 am
AWE	11:30 am
Confirmation Class	4:00 pm

**WE'RE GLAD THAT YOU HAVE JOINED US FOR WORSHIP THIS MORNING.**

Everyone is invited to Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall after worship.

**WE WELCOME THE REV. LIBBY CONLEY TO OUR PULPIT THIS MORNING.** Libby is an ordained Mennonite minister who worships with us regularly. Bill Lovin is on vacation this week. The Rev. Craig Henderson will preach next Sunday, April 19.

**ADULT EDUCATION ON APRIL 12:** Mission Board LGBTQ Subcommittee members will discuss their February trip to Des Moines for LGBTQ+ Day on the Hill. A slew of proposed anti LGBTQ legislation did not deter them and some 200 others from showing up, singing, talking with our legislators. They will also discuss plans for the upcoming Rainbow Graduation in May and the Pride Parade in June. Join them around the fireplace in Rockwood Hall at 9:15.

**ADULT EDUCATION NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 19:** a presentation by Clarity Guerra and Michelle Voss from the Bike Library and Cycling Without Age. Learn about their missions and programs from youth engagement, promoting safe & healthy biking and providing free seasonal passenger rides to folks in the community. Come learn how this vibrant organization is making a difference and how to support or access their services!

**SUNDAY SCHOOL BREAKFASTS:** Thank you so much to all who continue to provide breakfast for our children and youth! It is an appreciated gift to families, graciously part of our radically welcoming tradition. The new sign-up to finish out the school year is up in Rockwood Hall. If you are able, please consider contributing a "breakfast for 12" one Sunday this spring.

**AFTER WORSHIP ENCOUNTER (AWE) RESUMES THIS MORNING.** Generally, they gather on the Sundays that the choir meets after worship to rehearse for their Special Music Sunday on May 31. They are using *Living the Questions: The Wisdom of Progressive Christianity*. This is a beginning class that will introduce you to Progressive Christianity. Rev. Ann Molsberry is leading the discussions. Please purchase your own book and join us in the library.

**WE ARE CONTINUING OUR DISCUSSION OF MARILYNNE ROBINSON'S *READING GENESIS*** that we began last fall. We'll meet at Oaknoll from 10:00-11:30 on four Tuesday mornings, April 21 & 28 and May 5 & 12. If you would like to be a part of this group, talk with Bill Lovin or Chuck Dayton or sign up on the sheet in Rockwood Hall. For the April 21 session, please read from the break on page 81 to the break on page 98.

**THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO GAVE TO THE ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING (OGHS) OFFERING ON PALM SUNDAY.** We received over \$5,800. One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) involves us in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries

throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, through our offering, we are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery.

Through OGHS we engage in holistic development programs including health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing and women's empowerment. Because the UCC relates in mutual partnership to churches and organizations through Global Ministries and worldwide response & recovery networks, our contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing put us in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniment and recovery of the most vulnerable. We meet immediate needs and address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place.

**MYSTERIES REVEALED:** The Deacons invite everyone to help with hospitality, ushering, and greeting. In an effort to unveil the mysteries of these duties, the Deacons are having an informational get together on April 18th at 9AM in Rockwood Hall. Please join us! There is a sign up sheet in Rockwood Hall.

**THE PRIDE ALLIANCE CENTER RAINBOW GRADUATION** will be held at our church on Friday, May 1, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. The Rainbow Graduation Celebration recognizes the achievements of LGBTQ+ students and their allies. This is our second consecutive year hosting this event. Everyone is welcome to attend this joyous occasion and support the graduating students and organizers who are unable to use university spaces, funds, or staff as they have in previous years. If you can help provide refreshments for the reception to follow, please sign up on the sheet posted in Rockwood Hall. For more information, contact Julie Wittig, David McCartney, or Bill Dickinson.

**SAVE THE DATE! IOWA CITY PRIDE FESTIVAL IS SATURDAY, JUNE 20** and the Mission Board members invite you to participate in the parade, help at the booth, or both. Full event details and signup available in May. For more information or to get involved with the planning, please reach out to any member of the LGBTQ+ subcommittee: Dianne Atkins, Martha Ann Crawford, Carson Fixmer, Dean Logan, Linda Muston, Hope Spragg, Rebecca Weatherford or Julie Wittig.

**AGAPE CAFÉ FUNDRAISER:** Come support Agape Cafe with an afternoon of music, in the Sanctuary, on April 18th at 4pm! Hosted by the University of Iowa Graduate Brass Quintet, this recital will feature stories from Agape Cafe's last 30 years of service alongside performance from the University's premiere brass quintet. A free will offering will be collected with all funds going to support Agape's mission.

**BENEFIT CONCERT:** On Sunday, April 19th at 2:00 PM at Zion Lutheran Church (310 N. Johnson St. Iowa City), Court Hill Winds and the Zion Brass, Flute, and Bell Choirs will present an hour of music to benefit *Iowa Migrant Movement for Justice*. There will be a reception following featuring the Folklorico Dancers.

**USED MEDICINE BOTTLES NEEDED FOR REUSE IN CLINICS:** 100 Grannies, a local environmental activist group, is sending used plastic medicine bottles to Africa to assist clinics in

distributing medication. Donna Hirst is in charge of this project and would be pleased to have participation from members of the congregation. If you are interested, the labels from the plastic bottles need to be removed, and the bottles need to be washed in soapy water. More information will be in the church newsletter. Donna will pick up bottles on Sundays.

**CARBON OFFSET HELPS HABITAT FOR HUMANITY:** Have you ever wanted to compensate for CO2 emissions from a flight or other carbon intensive activity? Carbon offsets are a recognized way to make an activity carbon neutral. Carbon offsets are also often viewed with skepticism due to concerns about whether the money given is truly decreasing carbon emissions and whether the action would have happened without the donation.

Those concerns can be assuaged with a donation to put solar arrays on Habitat for Humanity homes. The homeowners do not have the resources to make an upfront investment in a solar array and once installed the system is likely to stay in place for the lifetime of the panels. In addition to reducing CO2 emissions the donor would be helping a low income Iowa family with their energy bills.

To estimate your flight emissions and send an offset to Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity go to [www.habitatsolar.org/](http://www.habitatsolar.org/). Please contact Jamie McCoy or see the bulletin board in Rockwood Hall for more information.

**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.

**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/1547852>. The recordings remain up permanently, so you can watch past worship services at your convenience or recommend them to a friend.