



"Hosanna in the Highest"—Hanna Varghese (Used with permission)

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

WORSHIP FOR APRIL 13, 2025  
PALM SUNDAY

As I walk through this wicked world  
Searchin' for light in the darkness of insanity  
I ask myself, "Is all hope lost?  
Is there only pain and hatred and misery?"

And as I walk on through troubled times  
My spirit gets so downhearted sometimes  
So where are the strong, and who are the trusted?  
And where is the harmony, sweet harmony?

'Cause each time I feel it slippin' away, just makes me wanna cry  
What's so funny 'bout peace, love and understanding?  
Nick Lowe

PRELUDE    “All Glory, Laud and Honor”            Georg Friedrich Kaufmann

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS            Bea Hicks, Liturgist

## CHORAL INTROIT

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Lift up your heads, O people;

**God draws near.**

Shout, O people. Rejoice and praise.

**Let us face with courage the path before us.**

**[Unison]**

**Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.**

\*HYMN 89    “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

### \*OPENING PRAYER

**Holy God, we shout “Hosanna,” asking you to help us in so many ways. Be our rock and our salvation. Remain with us even when we turn away or fall away or run away.**

**When we are lost and afraid, be with us.**

**When we are troubled and uncertain, comfort us.**

**Give us strength to see the truth about ourselves and our world and to say it.**

**When we lose our nerve and cannot speak, encourage us by your grace and accompany us with your Spirit so we may find our voices.**

**Guide us to continue the journey that leads to life and peace. Amen.**

### \*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#88)

**All glory, laud, and honor to you, O Christ, we sing,  
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!**

**The people of the city with palms adorned your way;  
our praise and prayer and anthems we offer you today.**

**As you received their praises, receive our prayers today,  
whose justice and whose mercy, and sovereignty hold sway.**

**All glory, laud, and honor to you, O Christ, we sing,  
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.**

ANTHEM    “Wondrous Love”    arr. Alice Parker

### 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      “What Wondrous Love Is This”      John Carter

\*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

#### RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Introductions: Craig Farris, Stephanie Frazee, Craig Henderson, Vicki Henderson

Owning the Covenant

**We covenant with one another to seek and respond to the Word and will of God. We purpose to walk together in the ways of Jesus Christ, made known and to be made known to us. We hold it to be the mission of the Church to witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ in all the world, while worshipping God, and striving for truth, justice, and peace. As did our forebears, we depend on the Holy Spirit to lead and empower us. We pray for the coming of the reign of God, and we look with faith toward the triumph of righteousness and eternal life.**

Welcome of the Congregation

**We welcome you with joy into the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hope and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God’s knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.**

(The children are dismissed to Children’s Church)

SCRIPTURE LESSON      Isaiah 50:4-9

PSALM 24

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,  
the world and all who dwell therein.

**For it is the Lord who founded it upon the seas  
and made it firm upon the rivers of the deep.**

"Who can ascend the hill of the Lord?  
and who can stand in God's holy place?"

**"Those who have clean hands and a pure heart,  
who have not pledged themselves to falsehood,  
nor sworn by what is a fraud.**

They shall receive a blessing from the Lord  
and a just reward from the God of their salvation."

**Such is the generation of those who seek the Lord,  
of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.**

Lift up your heads, O gates;  
lift them high, O everlasting doors;  
and the glorious Sovereign shall come in.

**"Who is this glorious Sovereign?"**

**"The Lord, strong and mighty,  
the Lord, mighty in battle."**

Lift up your heads, O gates;  
lift them high, O everlasting doors;  
and the glorious Sovereign shall come in.

**"And who is this glorious Sovereign?"**

**"The Lord, the Lord of hosts is the glorious Sovereign."**

SCRIPTURE LESSON      Luke 19:29-40

SERMON      "Finding Strength for Facing Life and Death"

\*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 AND CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE      "Toccata in C Major"      Johann Pachelbel

**Cover Art: “Hosanna in the Highest” by Hanna Varghese.** Used with gracious permission from her daughter, Georgina Varghese. Hanna Varghese (1938-2009) was a Malaysian Christian artist. She started her career as an art and English teacher. She was also a wife, mother and grandmother. Hanna used to say that as a visual artist, she did not get enough hours to paint and batik-dye as other demands of daily life usurped her time. Hanna worked with different medium like oil colours, metal-tooling and wood-block printing. Her passion was painting with Acrylic on canvas and batik-dyeing in fabric. You can learn more about the artist at <http://hanna-artwork.com/>.

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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	Jenn Harden

#### 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
Choir Rehearsal	11:30 am
Bible Study	11:30 am

#### TUESDAY

❖ Membership Board	5:30 pm
Diaconate	7:00 pm
Trustees	7:00 pm

#### WEDNESDAY

❖ Maundy Thursday Rehearsal	7:00 pm
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#### THURSDAY

❖ Maundy Thursday	7:00 pm
Communion and Tennebrae	

#### FRIDAY

❖ Good Friday Worship	Noon
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#### NEXT SUNDAY

❖ Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am
Easter Breakfast	8-9:30 a.m.
Festival Easter Worship Service	10:15 am

Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall

After Worship

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

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

**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING:** This morning 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. 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. Let us join in this great tradition and give generously.

**FLOWERS FOR EASTER:** Members and friends are invited to bring tulips, lilies, daffodils, or other flowering plants to the church to help make the sanctuary "bloom" for Easter. Plants can be left in the kitchen, dropped off on Saturday morning, April 19, or brought on Easter Sunday. Please let Jenn Harden know by April 17 if your flowers are in memory/honor of someone.

**COMMUNITIES ACTING IN CRISIS:** This morning we will finish our look at the part the churches played in creating the 1989-91 "Monday Demonstrations" in Leipzig, Germany, that led to the collapse of East Germany and the coming down of the Wall.

We are "crowd sourcing" the information that we will bring to the discussion. If you haven't done so already, you can begin your investigation by reading the Wikipedia article on the demonstrations [here](#). Then you can search further on Google to find the bits and pieces of information scattered on the Web. Then we'll come together to share what we know. Robin Thomas-Lovin will lead the discussion and she will hand out excerpts from a book on the demonstrations. Join us around the fireplace in Rockwood Hall at 9:15 a.m.

**AFTER WORSHIP BIBLE STUDY:** The Rev. Ann Molsberry's Bible Study will meet on Palm Sunday after worship and not meet on Easter Sunday. We will meet again for a final three sessions on Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> and Sunday May 11<sup>th</sup>. As long as the choir rehearses after worship, we will meet.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL BREAKFAST:** If you'd like to help provide breakfast for children & youth, please see the sign up in Rockwood Hall. Only five more Sunday slots to fill this school year!

**NURSERY CARE FOR HOLY WEEK:** Sunday, April 13, 9-12:30; Maundy Thursday service, April 14, 6:45 PM-8:15; No nursery care during Good Friday noon service; Easter Sunday, April 20, 9-11:30.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** on August 18-20, Mon-Wed, 8AM-11AM. All children pre-k-high school are encouraged to attend as campers or helpers! Silver cord hours are available for high school volunteers. This is a great opportunity to bring a friend! Sign-up in Rockwood Hall!

**THE MISSION BOARD HAS RESERVED 2 TABLES FOR THE TABLE TO TABLE ANNUAL DINNER**, April 23, 5:30-7:30 at the Celebration Farm. Their mission is to increase food equity and reduce environmental harm by collecting and redistributing surplus food. We usually have a great turn-out and encourage our new members to join the “regulars” for a great meal and fellowship. Please call Jenn Harden in the church office (319-337-4301) to reserve your seat.

**TAKE BACK THE NIGHT**—a walk/rally around downtown Iowa City on April 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 6 pm (meet at the Pentacrest) and speakers on the Pentacrest afterward. This event highlights the prevalence of sexual violence at the University of Iowa and its surrounding communities. This rally provides resources, information, and a chance for survivors and others to speak out about their experiences. It is hosted by the Women’s Resources and Action Center as well as student organizations and local resources. Everyone of all ages is welcome!

#### **IMPORTANT DATES IN LENT AND EASTER**

**April 13—Palm Sunday**—Worship with Distribution of Palms; One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

**April 17—Maundy Thursday**—Worship in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.; Communion and Service of Tenebrae

**April 18—Good Friday**—Worship in the Sanctuary at Noon

**April 20—Easter Sunday**—Breakfast in Rockwood Hall starting at 8:00 a.m.; Festival Easter Service in the Sanctuary at 10:15 a.m.

**HELP WITH MEALS FOR MEMBERS:** Occasionally, members of our congregation who are injured or ill can use a meal prepared for them. Our Membership Board wants to be ready when the need arises. If you can help provide an occasional meal, please sign up on the sheet in Rockwood Hall. Thanks!

**HELP WITH SLEEPING MATS STILL NEEDED:** With our winter weather just around the corner, the need for more sleeping mats for the homeless is growing! By contributing your plastic bags from your purchases we can help the homeless! Bring your clean, unneeded, plastic grocery bags, or similar plastic bags from your purchases here, to Rockwood Hall. We will see to it that they are delivered.

**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.