



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

WORSHIP FOR APRIL 14, 2024  
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Almighty God, your word of creation caused the water to be filled with many kinds of living beings and the air to be filled with birds. We rejoice in the richness of your creation, and we pray for your wisdom for all who live on this earth, that we may wisely manage and not destroy what you have made for us and for our descendants. Amen.

Prayer from Samoa

PRELUDE “Largo” John Keeble

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Marsha Lowe, Liturgist

Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed!**

CHORAL INTROIT

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Where the Iowa River bends

Come into the presence of God.

**Where the hills rise and fall around the city**

**Come into the presence of God.**

Where the fields spread out in every direction  
Come into the presence of God.

**Where the Mississippi widens and moves on  
Come into the presence of God.**

Wherever you are on this beautiful blue and green planet  
Come into the presence of God.

**Let us worship together.**

\*HYMN 455 “All Creatures of Our God and King” (vs. 1-4)

**All creatures of our God and King,  
Lift up your voice and with us sing,  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Thou burning sun with golden beam,  
Thou silver moon with softer gleam,  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Thou rushing wind that art so strong,  
Ye clouds that sail in heaven along,  
O sing ye! Alleluia!  
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,  
Ye lights of evening, find a voice!  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Thou flowing water, pure and clear,  
Make music for thy Lord to hear,  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Thou fire so masterful and bright,  
That givest man both warmth and light,  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Thou fertile earth, that day by day  
Unfoldest blessings on our way,  
O sing ye! Alleluia!  
The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,  
Let them God's glory also show!  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

\*OPENING PRAYER

**God of resurrection, when our hearts are weary, help us to watch and wait and work for  
the new thing you are doing in our world and in our midst. Give us, your creatures, the**

**words to speak of your forgiving grace that brings us into a new day. As we worship, may we find renewal in your care and strength in your Spirit for the days ahead. Amen.**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#455)**

**All creatures, your Creator bless,  
And worship God in humbleness.  
O sing ye! Alleluia!  
Your name we bless, O risen Lord,  
And sing today with one accord.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

ANTHEM      “The Day of Resurrection”                      Thomas Matthews

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      “Andante”      Jonathan Battishill

\*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

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

SCRIPTURE LESSON              Genesis 2:4b-9

PSALM 104:24-35

O Lord, how manifold are your works!  
in wisdom you have made them all;  
the earth is full of your creatures.

**Yonder is the great and wide sea  
with its living things too many to number,  
creatures both small and great.**

There move the ships,  
and there is that Leviathan,  
which you have made for the sport of it.

**All of them look to you  
to give them their food in due season.**

You give it to them; they gather it;  
you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.

**You hide your face, and they are terrified;  
you take away their breath,  
and they die and return to their dust.**

You send forth your Spirit, and they are created;  
and so you renew the face of the earth.

**May your glory, O Lord, endure forever;  
may you rejoice in all your works.**

You look at the earth and it trembles;  
you touch the mountains and they smoke.

**I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;  
I will praise my God while I have my being.**

May these words of mine please you;  
I will rejoice in the Lord.

**Bless the Lord, O my soul.  
Hallelujah!**

SCRIPTURE LESSON      John 20:19-23

SERMON      “Forgiveness and God’s New Creation”

\* HYMN (insert)      “For the Healing of the Nations”

**For the healing of the nations,  
Lord, we pray with one accord,  
for a just and equal sharing  
of the things that earth affords.  
To a life of love in action  
help us rise and pledge our word.**

**Lead us forward into freedom;  
from despair your world release,  
that, redeemed from war and hatred,  
all may come and go in peace.  
Show us how through care and goodness  
fear will die and hope increase.**

**All that kills abundant living,  
let it from the earth be banned:  
pride of status, race, or schooling,**

**dogmas that obscure your plan.  
In our common quest for justice  
may we hallow life's brief span.**

**You, Creator God, have written  
your great name on humankind.  
For our growing in your likeness,  
bring the life of Christ to mind  
that by our response and service  
earth its destiny may find.**

**\*BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE "Andante con moto" Johann Kindermann

"For the Healing of the Nations" Words: Fred Kaan Text: © 1968 Hope Publishing Company  
Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-715458. All rights reserved.

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**

❖ 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

**TUESDAY**

❖ Membership Board	5:30 pm
Diaconate	7:00 pm
Trustees	7:00 pm
Stewardship Board (Zoom)	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
Confirmation Class	4:00 pm

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

**PLEASE NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO YOUTH GROUP MEETING TODAY.** The next youth meeting, on Sunday, May 19, will be "The Grand Finale" hosted by First Presbyterian from 4-5:30.

**THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO GAVE TO OUR ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING:** We have received over \$3960 so far—and there's still time to give! 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](mailto:uccicrev@uccic.org) and Sally Strang [sallystrang@mchsi.com](mailto: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.

**OUR CHURCH HAS BEEN INVITED TO THE AGAPE CAFE FUNDRAISER** at Old Brick on Saturday, May 4th from 7:30 to 11:30 am. Please feel free to come for a free breakfast and conversation. The Congregational UCC has supported Agape Cafe, a provider of weekly free breakfasts for those who come, in the past. Come see what they do!

**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.