



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

WORSHIP FOR APRIL 16, 2023
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Andrea Rauer, Liturgist

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

CHORAL INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP (from John 20)

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, Jesus came and stood among them and said:

Peace be with you.

And all were amazed!

Peace be with you. As God has sent me, so I now send you.

Jesus is among us!

Friends, we gather in the life-giving presence of Christ. We seek to make Christ's heart of peace our heart. We desire for Christ's fearless spirit to be our own. And so let us celebrate in the presence of this grand and inviting mystery.

*HYMN 115 "Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain"

*OPENING PRAYER

God of great surprises, God of unbounded joy, into our uncertainties and fears this day, your voice echoes in our hearts.

May we receive your Spirit and be empowered to believe and follow.

Equip us for discipleship this day,

And empower us to be bearers of your Good News to a world in need of hope.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

When we are locked into patterns of anxious behavior and diminished by lack of affirmation and care, we open ourselves to you, O God, seeking a word of acceptance, longing for a touch that would heal and set us free.

When we are withered by the scorching winds of memory and folded into ourselves by deep hurt, we open ourselves to you, O Christ, seeking a strong breath of peace, longing for an embrace that would heal and set us free.

When we are dispirited by talk of inability and frightened by what others may think, we open ourselves to you, O Spirit, seeking a fresh wind of courage and grace, longing for expressions that would heal and set us free.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! 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.

SERVICE OF GIVING

Invitation

Offertory

*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

**Held securely by your love,
we seek to be an offering of love to the world
and to have our spirits freed to live again.
Receive the gifts of our hands,
and the desires of our hearts,
using each in your unfolding ways. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE "Getting to Yes"

SCRIPTURE LESSON Acts 2:14a, 22-32

PSALM 16

Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.

I bless the Lord who gives me counsel.

I keep the Lord always before me; God is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure.

You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy.

SCRIPTURE LESSON John 20:19-31

SERMON "Trust, but Verify"

*HYMN 118 "The Day of Resurrection"

*BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

We welcome the Rev. Bob Molsberry to our pulpit this morning. Bob is a retired UCC minister and a member of Congregational UCC. Bob will be the guest preacher next Sunday as well. Bill Lovin will be back from vacation on April 24.

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

TODAY

- ❖ Second Sunday of Easter Worship 10:15 am
 - The Rev. Bob Molsberry preaching
 - Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am
 - Christian Education for All Ages 9:15 am
 - Children's Church During Worship
 - Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall After Worship
 - Choir Rehearsal 11:15 am
 - Youth Group 3:00-4:30 p.m.
 - Wild Woods Farm

THIS WEEK

- ❖ Tuesday
 - Membership Board 5:30 pm
 - Deacons 6:00 pm
 - Trustees 7:00 pm
 - Stewardship Board 7:00 pm

- ❖ Thursday Women's Lunch 11:45 a.m.
 - @ Red Ginger

NEXT SUNDAY

- ❖ Third Sunday of Easter Worship 10:15 am
 - Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am
 - Christian Education 9:15 am
 - No Adult Education Session**
 - Children's Church During Worship
 - Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall After Worship
 - Choir Rehearsal 11:15 am

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

JOIN US FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION EVENTS FOR ALL AGES each Sunday morning at 9:15 a.m.

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO GAVE TO THE ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING: This offering has long been an important part of the life of our congregation. 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 still give to support this important work. Use the special OGHS envelopes in the pews and put "OGHS" in the memo line of your check.

BILL LOVIN WILL BE ON VACATION through Sunday, April 23. The Rev. Bob Molsberry will be preaching on both April 16 and 23.

WOMEN'S LUNCH—APRIL 20: The April women's lunch will meet at 11:45 a.m. on Thursday, April 20, at Red Ginger, 2419 2nd St., Coralville, Please call or Text Martha Ann Crawford at 319-855-8340 to reserve a seat at the table.

SPRING SPECIAL MUSIC SUNDAY—APRIL 30: During our worship on Sunday, April 30, the Congregational UCC Choir will offer a performance of *Illuminare* by composer and Iowa native, Elaine Hagenberg. The work will be conducted by Dr. Christopher Nakielski, with Bill Crouch on the organ, choir members and several area instrumentalists.

Illuminare is Hagenberg's first extended work, consisting of five-movements for chorus and chamber orchestra. Using lesser-known sacred Latin texts, the piece takes us through a season of beauty and goodness that has been disrupted by darkness and confusion. But as Light gradually returns, hope is restored, illuminating our future and guiding us in peace.

Please plan to join others here for this beloved springtime event. And invite a friend!

BRUNCH ON SUNDAY, APRIL 30, CELEBRATES FIFTEEN YEARS OF NEW UCCIC MEMBERS: The Membership Board invites you to Brunch on Sunday, April 30, following worship (in Rockwood Hall). Rande Fiesemann will give a talk: "Our Tiffany Window." New members, prospective members, longtime members, and visitors are all welcome. Please sign up for attendance on the sheets provided in Rockwood Hall.

CPR AND AED TRAINING: Dianne Atkins will be offering free CPR and AED training to the congregation in April. The training will consist of watching two 2-minute videos, watching demonstrations of CPR and AED use and getting the chance to practice. Trainings will be offered at various times. Sign up on the sheets in Rockwood Hall (Under the Upcoming Events Bulletin). You can learn to save a life in just a few minutes.

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH IS SPONSORING A TABLE at the Table to Table Annual Dinner on May 3. The event takes place on **Wednesday, May 3**, at Celebration Farm in the Double Round Barn. Celebrate the impact T2T's food recovery efforts make in our community and learn more about how you can be involved. Weather permitting the event will utilize both indoor and outdoor space. Funds raised from this event will help us rescue more than 130,000 pounds of good food and deliver it throughout the Johnson County hunger relief network. Learn more [here](#).

Want to join with others at our table? Please contact the church office at 337-4301.

AS ALLIES FOR LGBTQ INDIVIDUALS AND AN OPEN, WELCOMING AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION, the Mission Board has formed an LGBTQ+ Study Group. The group will look at ways to raise congregational awareness of Iowa's anti-LGBTQ legislation and the potential harm, intimidation and coercion of vulnerable individuals. We will present opportunities to support and act as allies in our community and state. For questions or

more information, see the display in Rockwood Hall or speak with a Mission Board or LGBTQ Study Group member: Hope Spragg, Linda Muston, Paula Forrest, Martha Ann Crawford or Rebecca Weatherford.

DO YOU HAVE A CHURCH KEY? We have recently made new keys and are working at getting a better list of people who have keys. If you have a key to the church, please contact Trustee Chairperson, Kevin Richards, at (608) 807-7195 or at kdrichards1958@gmail.com. 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 or Trustee Chairperson, Kevin Richards, know right away. You can reach Kevin at (608) 807-7195 or at kdrichards1958@gmail.com. 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.