



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

WORSHIP FOR APRIL 18, 2021
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 “Trio in D Major,” Op. 49 No. 4 Josef Rheinberger

EASTER GREETING AND WELCOME

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

CALL TO WORSHIP

People of God: gather in the name of Christ
to worship in this sanctuary called Earth,
a planet filled with the presence of God,

**God, reveal yourself to us in this place
and show us your face in all creation.**

**We will rejoice in this day that you, O God, have made,
and sing with all creation.**

HYMN "Morning Has Broken"

**Morning has broken like the first morning
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird
Praise for the singing, Praise for the morning
Praise for them springing fresh from the Word!**

**Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven
Like the first dewfall on the first grass
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden
Sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.**

**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!**

OPENING PRAYER

**O God, the source of our being and the goal of our longing:
the whole earth is full of your glory and all that has life is sustained by you.
We rejoice that you have made us all to reflect your image and to care for creation.
Give us courage to face our failure and limitations, and to overcome our helplessness.
Take the things that we have destroyed.
Take the broken way we live.
From the stores of your goodness give us the strength to mend these things
and renew us and the whole creation with your saving grace; through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Genesis 2:4a-15

PSALM 36:5-10

Your steadfast love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens,
and your faithfulness to the clouds.

**Your righteousness is like the strong mountains,
your justice like the great deep;
you save humans and animals alike, O Lord.**

How priceless is your love, O God!
your people take refuge under the shadow of your wings.

**They feast upon the abundance of your house;
you give them drink from the river of your delights.**

For with you is the fountain of life,
and in your light we see light.

**Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you,
and your salvation to the upright of heart!**

SCRIPTURE LESSON John 20:19-23

SERMON "The Care of Creation and the New Creation"

TIME OF GRATITUDE

ANTHEM “Be Still and Know That I Am God” Ralph M. Johnson
 LaBarrin Wallace, English Horn
 Danielle Bridges, Avery Nabholz, Josh Ramseyer, Colin Wilson

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

HYMN “The Day of Resurrection”

**The day of resurrection!
Earth, tell it out abroad;
the Passover of gladness,
the Passover of God.
From death to life eternal,
from this world to the sky,
our Christ hath brought us over,
with hymns of victory.**

**Our hearts be pure from evil,
that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal
of resurrection light;
and listening to his accents,
may hear, so calm and plain,
his own “All hail!” and, hearing,
may raise the victor strain.**

**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.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Sortie” Jacques Lemmens

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| Minister: | The Rev. Bill Lovin |
| Director of Children’s Programs: | The Rev. Ann Molsberry |
| Organist: | Bill Crouch |
| Choir Director | Kristin Ramseyer |

RECORDINGS OF THE WORSHIP SERVICES are posted by early Sunday morning each week 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.

REOPENING SURVEY: Reopening the church building and returning to in-person worship is still several months away. We do, however, have a Reopening Committee that has been meeting to consider all the concerns and logistics that are involved in this. They have prepared a brief survey in order to get your thoughts and to involve everyone in this effort. The survey is anonymous. Please take a few minutes to fill it out and return it—all online. And note that this is not a group survey. We ask that each church member in your family fill one out. You can find the survey [here](#).

With the Easter season here, Bill is leading a two-week series looking at the resurrection stories in chapters 20 & 21 of the Gospel of John. We'll conclude the study this Wednesday, April 21. If you would like to join the session, email Bill at uccicre@uccic.org and he will send you the Zoom invitation.

As we did a year ago, the **Mission Board is inviting church members to donate some or all of their COVID-19 Relief Checks** (stimulus checks) to local agencies which can get this money to individuals with immediate needs, some of whom don't qualify for relief checks. Many in our congregation will need to keep their relief checks just to make ends meet through the continuing crisis, but many in our congregation are still receiving their regular income and actually may have fewer expenses than usual. You can read the Mission Board's letter that includes an annotated list of agencies [here](#).

RACIAL JUSTICE–SOCIAL ACTION DISCUSSIONS: AN INVITATION

The Mission Board invites you to participate in the final discussion group to be held via Zoom in April.

We will come together with the hope of understanding and combating racism—within ourselves and in the world around us. Through the questions we ask and the answers we propose, we will seek specific projects and goals that can lift the burden of racism that our sisters and brothers of color—indeed, all of us—carry in our daily life.

The session will open with brief introductory remarks, and guided discussion will follow; we encourage *all* participants to voice their own thoughts! The final session is: **Environmental Justice, Apr. 27, Tuesday, 7:00–8:30**

Registration instructions: please read carefully!

Registration will be handled through **Kyle Flippo, kyle-flippo@uiowa.edu**. Please email Kyle indicating that you'd like to join the session. Approximately a week before the session, registrants will receive a welcome letter with a Zoom link. After you register, you'll also be offered a *few* pages of suggested reading for each session. After each discussion, you'll receive a list of proposed actions and activities.

We welcome you, and encourage you to pass our invitation on to others who may wish to join us. **If you have questions, please email Kyle Flippo, kyle-flippo@uiowa.edu.**

We need *you* for this project; please join us if you can. Few of us live without the benefits or harms of racial injustice. This is a chance for you to connect to the community and learn how you might help “to form a more perfect Union.”

SUPPLY NEEDS AT COMMUNITY: Currently in need of **baby items** (diapers & wipes). Larger sizes of diapers tend to be more popular among our clients. Please feel free to drop off any donations of these items to the Pepperwood food bank location. CommUnity is also in need of containers to be used for repackaging dog food. A good example of containers that work well are empty Folger’s coffee containers. Lastly, CommUnity is in need of nonperishable, easy to open, microwavable food items. Some good examples may include:

- pop top canned goods
- microwavable pasta cups
- microwavable soups
- microwavable rice
- etc.

INSIDE OUT REENTRY COMMUNITY PRESENTS UNHEARD VOICES, a forum to discuss the hidden impacts of incarceration and reentry on children, partners, and family members. These groups often face challenges finding support for their situation, as well as the effects of the societal stigma surrounding incarceration. The event includes a panel of service providers who will discuss programming and support groups for these families and children, as well as a panel of individuals who have been impacted by the incarceration of a loved one. This event discusses available opportunities and identifies gaps in support for these unheard voices. April 22, 2021 12:00 PM Register [here](#).