



Third Station of the Resurrection: The Walk to Emmaus (detail), 1970.

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

WORSHIP FOR APRIL 19, 2026
THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Centering Thoughts for the Easter pilgrimage:

The old life is a grass life,
its beauty as short-lived as wildflowers;
Grass dries up, flowers droop,
God's Word goes on and on forever.
This is the Word that conceived the new life in you.
~ 1 Peter 1:24-25 (*The Message*)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Andrea Rauer, Liturgist

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

PRELUDE “Beautiful Savior” David Cherwien

CHORAL INTROIT

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Blessed be the God of our Savior, Jesus Christ!

God has given us a new birth in the living hope of the resurrection.

God has given us an inheritance that is imperishable and unfading.

In this we rejoice, even when we suffer trials.

For although we have not seen Jesus, we love him; and although we have not seen him, we believe in him.

For God has been and is known to us in the ways of life, and the outcome of our faith is that God will not abandon us. God walks alongside us.

***HYMN #391 “Take My Life” (vs. 1-4)**

Take my life, and let it be

Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.

Take my moments and my days;

Let them flow in ceaseless praise,

Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move

At the impulse of Thy love.

Take my feet, and let them be

Swift and beautiful for Thee,

Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing

Always, only, for my King.

Take my lips, and let them be

Filled with messages from Thee,

Filled with messages from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold;

Not a mite would I withhold;

Take my intellect, and use

Every power as Thou shalt choose,

Every power as Thou shalt choose.

*POETRY READING

“Emmaus”

by Joy Cowley

On that day of rain, I walked with You,
Seeing but not seeing You in wet trees,
Hearing but not hearing You
In the symphony of water sounds
Played by a flooded stream.
You were everywhere and yet closer
Thank the sanctuary of my umbrella,
Closer than a misted breath.
I didn't need to ask who You were
For my heart burned with recognition.
Fearing that I would lose You, I cried,
“Oh Lord, come home with me!”
You smiled through the dancing rain,
The puddles, the gray fence posts,
And you whispered, “Ah! I am already there.”

[Cowley, Joy. “Emmaus.” *Come and See: Reflections on the Life of Jesus among Us*. Hawkes, Bay, N.Z.: Pieroma, 2008. 134.]

*OPENING PRAYER

God of rest and renewal, we come to worship, seeking what you alone can genuinely give. Break open our gratitude that we may fully embrace your good gifts. Calm our hearts, minds, and spirits so we may bask in the fullness of your glory. Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#391, vs. 5-6)

Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.

Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne, it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store.

Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee, ever, only, all for thee.

ANTHEM “Easter Fanfare: Christ the Lord is Risen” by Paul Fetler

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 "I Know that My Redeemer Lives"

Richard Wienhorst

*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 (Children are dismissed to Children's Church)

SCRIPTURELESSON Acts 2:14a, 36-42 (*The Message*)

^{14a} That's when Peter stood up and, backed by the other eleven, spoke out with bold urgency: . . .

³⁶ "... know this: There's no longer room for doubt—God made him Master and Messiah, this Jesus whom you killed on a cross."

³⁷ Cut to the quick, those who were there listening asked Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers! Brothers! So now what do we do?"

³⁸⁻³⁹ Peter said, "Change your life. Turn to God and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, so your sins are forgiven. Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is targeted to you and your children, but also to all who are far away—whomever, in fact, our Master God invites."

⁴⁰ He went on in this vein for a long time, urging them over and over, "Get out while you can; get out of this sick and stupid culture!"

⁴¹⁻⁴² That day about three thousand took him at his word, were baptized and were signed up. They committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles, the life together, the common meal, and the prayers.

PSALM HYMN #228 "O Thou, My Soul, Return in Peace" (Psalm 116)

**O thou, my soul, return in peace
To thine untroubled rest,
For thee the bounty of the Lord
Abundantly hath blest.**

**Salvation's cup my soul shall take
While to the Lord I pray,
And with God's people I will meet,
My thankful vows to pay.**

**God did indeed redeem my soul
That else in death had slept;
God hath mine eyes from tears set free,
My feet from stumbling kept.**

**Not lightly dost Thou, Lord, permit
Thy chosen saints to die;
From death Thou hast delivered me;
Thy servant, Lord, am I.**

**What shall I render to the Lord,
What shall my offering be,
For all the gracious benefits
God hath bestowed on me?**

**Within God's house, the house of prayer,
My soul shall bless the Lord,
And praises to God's holy name
Let all the saints accord.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 24:13-35

¹³⁻¹⁶ That same day two of them were walking to the village Emmaus, about seven miles out of Jerusalem. They were deep in conversation, going over all these things that had happened. In the middle of their talk and questions, Jesus came up and walked along with them. But they were not able to recognize who he was.

¹⁷⁻¹⁸ He asked, “What’s this you’re discussing so intently as you walk along?”

They just stood there, long-faced, like they had lost their best friend. Then one of them, his name was Cleopas, said, “Are you the only one in Jerusalem who hasn’t heard what’s happened during the last few days?”

¹⁹⁻²⁴ He said, “What has happened?”

They said, “The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene. He was a man of God, a prophet, dynamic in work and word, blessed by both God and all the people. Then our high priests and leaders betrayed him, got him sentenced to death, and crucified him. And we had our hopes up that he was the One, the One about to deliver Israel. And it is now the third day since it happened. But now some of our women have completely confused us. Early this morning they were at the tomb and couldn’t find his body. They came back with the story that they had seen a vision of angels who said he was alive. Some of our friends went off to the tomb to check and found it empty just as the women said, but they didn’t see Jesus.”

²⁵⁻²⁷ Then he said to them, “So thick-headed! So slow-hearted! Why can’t you simply believe all that the prophets said? Don’t you see that these things had to happen, that the Messiah had to suffer and only then enter into his glory?” Then he started at the beginning, with the Books of Moses, and went on through all the Prophets, pointing out everything in the Scriptures that referred to him.

²⁸⁻³¹ They came to the edge of the village where they were headed. He acted as if he were going on but they pressed him: “Stay and have supper with us. It’s nearly evening; the day is done.” So he went in with them. And here is what happened: He sat down at the table with them. Taking the bread, he blessed and broke and gave it to them. At that moment, open-eyed, wide-eyed, they recognized him. And then he disappeared.

³² Back and forth they talked. “Didn’t we feel on fire as he conversed with us on the road, as he opened up the Scriptures for us?”

³³⁻³⁴ They didn’t waste a minute. They were up and on their way back to Jerusalem. They found the Eleven and their friends gathered together, talking away: “It’s really happened! The Master has been raised up—Simon saw him!”

³⁵ Then the two went over everything that happened on the road and how they recognized him when he broke the bread.

SERMON “Recognizing What Is Arisen”

*HYMN #407 “When a Poor One” (*Cuando el Pobre*) (vs. 1-4) – use lyrics in bulletin.

When a poor one who has nothing shares with strangers, when the thirsty water give unto us all, when the wounded in their weakness strengthen others, then we know God still goes that road with us, then we know that God still goes that road with us.

When at last all those suffer find their comfort, when they hope though even hope seems hopelessness, when we love though hate at times seems all around us, then we

know that God still goes that road with us, then we know that God still goes that road with us.

When our joy fills up our cup to overflowing, when our lips can speak no words other than true, when we know that love for simple things is better, then we know that God still goes that road with us, then we know that God still goes that road with us.

When our homes are filled with goodness in abundance. When we learn how to make peace instead of war. When each stranger that we meet is called a neighbor, then we know that God still goes that road with us, then we know that God still goes that road with us.

***BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE “Because You Live, O Christ” Keith Kolander
Cover Art: *Third Station of the Resurrection: The Walk to Emmaus* (detail), 1970. Rowan LeCompte (American, 1925–2014) and Irene Matz LeCompte (American, 1926–1970), Mosaic, Resurrection Chapel, National Cathedral, Washington, DC.

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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	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
Choir Rehearsal	11:30 am
AWE	11:30 am
Confirmation Class	4:00 pm

TUESDAY

❖ <i>Reading Genesis</i> Group (Oaknoll)	10:00am
Gentle Yoga	11:00 am
Rainbow Graduation Walk-through	12:30 pm
Membership Board	5:30 pm

Trustees	7:00 pm
Diaconate	7:00 pm
THURSDAY	
❖ Pastoral Support Committee	11:00 am
Prairie Piffari Rehearsal	6:30 pm
SATURDAY	
❖ Richard Bloesch Memorial Service	11:00 am
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

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. CRAIG HENDERSON TO OUR PULPIT THIS MORNING.

Craig is an ordained UCC minister and a member of our congregation. Bill Lovin is on vacation and will be back on Monday.

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.

ADULT EDUCATION THIS 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!

ADULT EDUCATION NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 26: Ginny Clemons will talk about German POWs in Algona, IA, and their enduring gift to the town.

AFTER WORSHIP ENCOUNTER (AWE) MEETS 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.

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.

BENEFIT CONCERT THIS AFTERNOON, 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.

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.