

EASTER SUNDAY



Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news:
“I have seen the Lord!”

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

WORSHIP FOR APRIL 20, 2025
EASTER SUNDAY

PRELUDE “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!” Stephen Walters

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Chuck Connerly, Liturgist
Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed!

CHORAL INTROIT “An Easter Introit” Richard Slater

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

The sun rises
On a world renewed

**The sun rises
To the cry "Alleluia!"**

Come out of shadows into light.
Come out of grief into joy.
Come out of fear into hope.

**In Christ we are called by name,
liberated to love,
empowered to serve.**

Christ who was dead
Is raised to life

**Christ who suffered
Has overcome the world**

[Unison]

We rise, risen Christ, to greet you.

***HYMN "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" EASTER HYMN**

**"Christ the Lord is risen today, "Alleluia!
All creation join to say: Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high; Alleluia!
Sing, O heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!**

**Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids Christ rise, Alleluia!
God has opened paradise, Alleluia!**

**Hail, the Lord of earth and heaven! Alleluia!
Praise to You by both be given; Alleluia!
Every knee to You shall bow, Alleluia!
Risen Christ, triumphant now. Alleluia!**

**Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!**

***OPENING PRAYER**

Lord of life, we come before you seeking to be a people of the resurrection. Be known among us; give us the assurance of your presence, and renew us with the unexpected joy of this day. Look with compassion upon those who find their lives so burdened they cannot find their way into this joy. With your strength, help us to accompany them so they may also enter into this new day. May each one of us with all our difficulties and opportunities go forward in faith and hope. As your people reveal to us our common purpose. Amen.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#118, vs. 30)

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 has no end.**

ANTHEM “Lift High the Cross” Hal Hopson

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 “Fantasia,” BWV 570 J.S. Bach

*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

(The children are dismissed to Children’s Church)

SCRIPTURE LESSON Colossians 3:1-4

PSALM 118:1-2, 14-24

Give thanks to the Lord, who is good,
whose mercy endures forever.

Let Israel now proclaim,

"The mercy of the Lord endures forever."

The Lord is my strength and my song
and has become my salvation.

There is a sound of exultation and victory

in the tents of the righteous:

"The right hand of the Lord has triumphed!
the right hand of the Lord is exalted!
the right hand of the Lord has triumphed!"

**I shall not die, but live,
and declare the works of the Lord.**

The Lord has punished me sorely
but did not hand me over to death.

**Open for me the gates of righteousness;
I will enter them;
I will offer thanks to the Lord.**

"This is the gate of the Lord;
those who are righteous may enter."

**I will give thanks to you, for you answered me
and have become my salvation.**

The same stone which the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

**This is the Lord's doing,
and it is marvelous in our eyes.**

[Unison]

**This is the day God has made;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON John 20:1-18

SERMON “

*HYMN 122 “Thine Is the Glory”
(Please note: the refrain will be sung after each verse.)

**Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory thou o’er death hast won;
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.**

**Refrain:
Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory thou o’er death hast won.**

**Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let the church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing,
for the Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting. [Refrain]**

**No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;
life is naught without thee: aid us in our strife;**

**make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love:
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above. [Refrain]**

***BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE “Toccata” from *Symphony No. 5* Charles-Marie Widor

Opening Prayer altered and adapted from *A Call to Prayer*, ed. by Caryl Micklem.

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

❖ Easter Breakfast	Starting at 8:00 am
Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am
No Christian Education	
Worship Service	10:15 am
Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall	After Worship

TUESDAY

❖ Church Council	7:00 pm
------------------	---------

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
Bible Study	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.

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO PLANTED BULBS AND/OR GAVE FLOWERS FOR OUR WORSHIP SERVICE THIS MORNING. Some flowers were given in honor of the intellectual lives of: Ethel Bloesch, Ruth Kuntz & Anna Mary Mueller.

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO GAVE TO OUR ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING on Palm Sunday. So far, we have received over \$4000. 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. There's still time to give—or to give more. Please use the special OGHs envelopes in the pews and/or put “OGHS” on your check memo line.

AFTER WORSHIP BIBLE STUDY: The Rev. Ann Molsberry's Bible Study will meet for the final three sessions on Sunday, April 27th and Sunday, May 4th and Sunday May 11th. As long as the choir rehearses after worship, we will meet.

THE WOMEN'S READING GROUP is reading *In the Sanctuary of Women* by Jan Richardson. We will meet on May 10 at 10:00 to discuss chapter 3: "A Way in the Wilderness, The Book of the Desert Mothers." All women are invited.

THE MISSION BOARD HAS TWO SEATS AVAILABLE 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 22nd @ 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!

CATCH NADIA SPRAGG IN IOWA CITY HIGH'S SPRING MUSICAL *Urinetown*—a witty, satirical show full of humor and great music. Performances run April 25–27: Friday @7 PM, Saturday @ 2 & 7 PM and Sunday @ 2 PM. Tickets available at: <https://tinyurl.com/3mexb287>

GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH (123 E MARKET ST, IC) INVITES EVERYONE TO A TABLE TALK AND POTLUCK LUNCH on Sunday April 27th 12:00 noon to 1:30 pm. Their panel will present services and responses to assist and support immigrants. Speakers are: Lutheran Services in Iowa (Erin Good), Agudas Achim Congregation (Rabbi Esther Hugenholtz), and Open Heartland (Deb Dunkhase). The event and potluck are free. Not able to bring food? Worry not, as Gloria Dei member Marge Reid has noted, “There's always enough food at Lutheran potlucks!”

IOWA CITY PRIDE FESTIVAL is Saturday, June 21—just two months away—and the Mission Board members invite you to participate in the parade and/or the booth. Last year more than 40 members of the congregation including friends and family enjoyed the celebration. In 2025 we welcome everyone to join us as we proudly show love and support for the LGBTQ+

community and celebrate the historic inclusive commitment of our denomination and congregation where all are welcome. For more information or to share your willingness to help contact any member of the subcommittee: Dianne Atkins, Martha Ann Crawford, Linda Muston, Hope Spragg, Rebecca Weatherford or Julie Wittig.

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.

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

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!

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.