



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

WORSHIP FOR APRIL 21, 2024
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

“Commune with nature! Become reconciled with nature after your estrangement from it. Listen to nature in quietness, and you will find its heart. It will sound forth the glory of the divine ground. It will sigh with us in the bondage of tragedy. It will speak of the indestructible hope of salvation!”

Paul Tillich

PRELUDE “Alla breve” J.K.F. Fischer

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Derek Willard, Liturgist

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

CHORAL INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof,
the world, and those who live in it.

*HYMN 288 "I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

**I sing the mighty power of God
That made the mountains rise;
That spread the flowing seas abroad
And built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained
The sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at God's command,
And all the stars obey.**

**I sing the goodness of the Lord
That filled the earth with food;
God formed the creatures with a word
And then pronounced them good.
Lord, how Thy wonders are displayed,
Where'er I turn my eyes;
If I survey the ground I tread,
Or gaze upon the skies!**

**There's not a plant or flower below
But makes Thy glories known;
And clouds arise, and tempests blow,
By order from Thy throne;
While all that borrows life from Thee
Is ever in Thy care,
And everywhere that we can be,
Thou, God, art present there.**

* 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.**

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#218, vs. 3)

**Rivers and seas and torrents roaring,
Honor the Lord with wild acclaim;
Mountains and stones look up adoring,
And find a voice to praise God's name.
Righteous, commanding, ever glorious,
Praises be sung that never cease;
Just is our God, whose truth victorious
Establishes the world in peace.**

ANTHEM “How Excellent Is Your Name” Robert Wetzler

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 “Prelude in A-Flat Major” Josef Renner

*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 CHOIR “Chatter with the Angels”
(At this time, children are dismissed to attend Children's Church.)

SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 55:8-13

PSALM 98

Sing to the Lord a new song,
for the Lord has done marvelous things.

**The right hand and the holy arm of the Lord
have secured the victory.**

The Lord has made known this victory
and has openly showed righteousness in the sight of the nations.

**The Lord remembers mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel,
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.**

Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

**Sing to the Lord with the harp,
with the harp and the voice of song.**

With trumpets and the sound of the horn
shout with joy before the Sovereign, the Lord.

**Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it,
the lands and those who dwell therein.**

Let the rivers clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord,
who is coming to judge the earth.

**In righteousness shall the Lord judge the world
and the peoples with equity.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Romans 8:18-27

EARTH REFLECTIONS

* 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 “Fughetta” J.K.F. Fischer

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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
Confirmation Class	4:00 pm

MONDAY

❖ Finance Committee	10:00 am
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TUESDAY

❖ Church Council	7:00 pm
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NEXT SUNDAY

❖ Church School Breakfast	9:00 am
Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am
Christian Education (No Adult Education)	9:15 am
Worship Service—Special Music	10:15 am

Spring Brunch

Following Worship

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

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 and Sally Strang sallystrang@mchsi.com.

REMEMBERING JOAN JEHLE: Friends and family of long-time Congregational UCC member, Joan Jehle, will gather at Lensing Funeral Home, Iowa City this afternoon, from 2:00-4:00pm to celebrate a life well lived. A time of sharing and prayer will be at 3:30pm.

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH IS SPONSORING A TABLE at the Table to Table Annual Dinner on April 24. The event takes place this coming Wednesday, 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.

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 8:00 to 11:00 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.