



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

WORSHIP FOR APRIL 24, 2022
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

“Easter can be so embarrassing. It goes against everything we know. The thing about Easter is that Jesus comes back from the dead both resurrected and broken, with the wounds from the nails still visible. People needed to see that it really did happen, the brutality, the death. He came back with a body...he didn't come back as the vague idea of spirit returning. No, it was physical, a wounded body. You could touch Him, and He could eat.”

Ann Lamott

PRELUDE “Moderato” Clement Loret

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed!

CHORAL INTROIT

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

We are gathered in the presence of the risen Christ,
who remains with us forever.

**When we abide in the love of Christ,
love, joy, and peace grow.**

We are rooted in Christ's love
that we may bear these fruits together with all God's people.

**Blessing, glory, wisdom thanks, honor, and might
be to God for ever and ever.**

***HYMN 108 Christ Is Alive**

**Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The Cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring. Love, drowned in death, shall never die.**

**Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine,
But saving, healing, here and now, and touching every place and time.**

**Not throned afar, remotely high, untouched, unmoved by human pains,
But daily, in the midst of life, Our Savior in the God-head reigns.**

**In every insult, rift, and war, where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more, and lives, where hope has died.**

**Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and every age,
til earth and sky and ocean ring, with joy, with justice, love, and praise.**

***OPENING PRAYER**

**Creator of our lives, source and destiny of all that is, we come to you in partial awareness
of the hallowed nature of each human life, and in need of your reviving Spirit for comfort
and grace. In the beauty of this place set aside, in the solemn reverence of time set apart to
hear your Word, in the strength of mutual care, in the silence and in the songs which
attend your redeeming power, we come to worship and to wait for you.**

**May every bitter thought and each nagging worry about what we have done and what we
have failed to do be washed out into the ebbing sea of your boundless mercy. Let every
noble thought and every impulse of love be stirred anew by the breath of your Spirit. So
lead us by your gentle inspiration to sense in each moment eternal depths, immeasurable
goodness and the possibilities of tomorrow. Amen.**

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.
Choral Response

SERVICE OF GIVING

Invitation

Offertory “Andante” John Stainer

*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

(At this time, children are dismissed to attend Children's Church.)

SCRIPTURE LESSON Jeremiah 31:31-34

PSALM 130

Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord;
Lord, hear my voice;
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.

**If you, Lord, were to note what is done amiss,
O Lord, who could stand?**

For there is forgiveness with you;
therefore you shall be feared.

**I wait for you, O Lord; my soul waits for you;
in your word is my hope.**

My soul waits for the Lord,
more than sentries for the morning,
more than sentries for the morning.

**O Israel, hope in the Lord,
for with the Lord there is mercy;**

[Unison]

**there is plenteous redemption with the Lord,
who shall redeem Israel from all their sins.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON John 20:19-31

SERMON “The Limits of Forgiveness”

*HYMN 117 O Sons and Daughters Let Us Sing

**O sons and daughters, let us sing!
The King of Heaven, the glorious King,**

**O'er death and hell rose triumphing.
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**That night the apostles met in fear;
Among them came their Lord most dear,
And said, "My peace be with you here."
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**When Thomas first the tidings heard,
How they had seen the risen Lord,
He doubted the disciples' word.
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**"My pierced side O Thomas, see;
My hands, My feet, I show to thee;
Not faithless, but believing be."
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**No longer Thomas then denied,
He saw the feet, the hands, the side;
"Thou art my Lord and God," he cried.
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**How blest are they who have not seen,
And yet whose faith hath constant been,
For they eternal life shall win.
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE "O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing!" Clement Lore

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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

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 required for all people in all parts of the building. We will keep social distance in the pews. Everyone is invited to Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall after worship. Masks are optional in Rockwood Hall during Coffee Hour.

USHERS, GREETERS, AND HOSPITALITY OPPORTUNITIES: As we continue to reopen, there are new 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.

JENN WILL BE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE FROM 10-2 ON MONDAY. The rest of the week she will have the regular 9-1 hours.

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO GAVE TO THE ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING: We have received over \$3,200. This offering has long been an important part of the life of our congregation. For many years now, we have been on the list of Top 100 giving churches. 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.

Want to give online? Scan the QR code for our giving app.
Your giving makes a world of difference.



RETURN TO HOPE LODGE! HELP PREPARE THE MAY 9 MEAL: Before the pandemic our church was providing an evening meal for the residents of Hope Lodge once a month. The American Cancer Society Hope Lodge houses cancer patients (and their caregivers) who are receiving treatment at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. Hope Lodge is now back to housing residents but they are not yet allowing volunteers in the building. However, they are welcoming groups to provide an evening meal, enough for 30 people, leaving food off at the door. Our church will be responsible for a meal on May 9. There is a sign-up sheet in Rockwood Hall. Food will be delivered to Hope Lodge by 4:30 that day and should be in containers (aluminum pans) that do not need to be returned. The address of Hope Lodge is 750 Hawkins Drive (near the Ronald McDonald House). If you have questions about this project, contact Sue Dayton, cdayton7@mchsi.com or 351-5886.

PLANTING OF ANNE FRANK TREE AT UI: The University of Iowa has received the incredible honor of planting an Anne Frank tree on the Pentacrest on the 29th of April at 5 pm. (See <https://uiannefranktree.com> for more information).

Rabbi Esther Hugenholtz writes: “This is a poignant and important moment for our university community, our city and the Iowa City Jewish community, especially in an age of increasing polarization, bigotry and antisemitism. I have witnessed the dedication, creativity and hard work of the Planning Committee to bring this vision to fruition. We have been blessed to witness a productive and life-giving collaboration between these different stakeholders in a spirit of remembrance and hope.

“It is therefore with considerable pride that I, as the rabbi of Agudas Achim congregation, together with our partners, invite the wider community to a special Shabbat service following the planting ceremony. This brief, but heartfelt, spiritual service of memory, reflection and hope wishes to showcase the beauty of a living, breathing Judaism in our locality. An inclusive, musical service, this Shabbat service on Friday the 29th of April at 6 pm (at Phillips Hall), presents us with a wonderful occasion to share the gifts of Jewish life and thought in an interfaith and ecumenical spirit. Likewise, this presents a wonderful opportunity for people to attend a Shabbat service if they had not done so before.

“Anne Frank’s vision was both intensely Jewish and passionately universal. As her co-religionist and fellow Amsterdamer, I am humbled to bring her presence to our city. You are most welcome to bring your friends, family, loved ones, colleagues and community members to this service. We look forward to ushering in the peace of Shabbat with you, through friendship and joyous song.” Capacity at Phillips Hall is capped at 310 individuals.

THRESHOLD CHOIR PRESENTS “WALKING EACH OTHER HOME: A CHORAL REMEMBRANCE” On Sunday, May 1, 2022, Threshold Choir, is holding a day of choral remembrance for those who died from COVID-19, their families, and anyone who wants to participate as a community. “Walking Each Other Home” will be held at 1:30 p.m. on May 1 on the Iowa City Ped Mall in front of the Graduate hotel. The choral remembrance will last approximately 30 minutes. Threshold Choir’s only chapter in Iowa, Hawkeye Threshold Singers, sings gentle, comforting songs in groups of two to four to people at the threshold of life. The songs are written by members across the globe and represent messages of peace, kindness and love. On May 1, the chapter will sing an array of songs for the community not only to celebrate the lives of individuals who died from COVID-19 but to also provide comfort to one another.

NAMIWALKS YOUR WAY JOHNSON & LINN COUNTIES is a community event to raise awareness about the importance of mental health and to raise funds to help meet the rising need of mental health services. Join us at our in-person event on **May 7th at Terry Trueblood Recreation Center**, for the walk, entertainment, fun activities, and to learn about local services. Show your support for people affected by mental illness in our counties. If you can’t come to the in-person event, you can participate virtually, in Your Way, or make a donation. Find more info at www.namiwalks.org/johnsoncountya

WE ARE NOW LIVE STREAMING 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.