



The Vine Dresser and the Fig Tree (Le vigneron et le figuier) James Tissot. (Public Domain)

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

WORSHIP FOR APRIL 3, 2022
FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

“We live in a day when everyone wants to blame everyone else for the ills of the world. Amid the din, Jesus says, ‘Hold on.’ ...Just when we begin to stir up flattering, heroic images of ourselves ready to wipe evil off the face of the earth, Jesus knocks us off our moral high horses.”

Rodney Clapp

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Here we let go
of that which we hold on to
that does not bring life

**Here we let go
of the vanities of the world
and find the vulnerability of the cross**

Here we let go
of the wealth of the world
and trust the way of love

**Here we let go
of that which we hold on to
that does not bring life and
let those things that bring life
take hold in us.**

Let us worship God.

*HYMN 83 “O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High”

**O love, how deep, how broad, how high,
How passing thought and fantasy,
That God, the Son of God, should take
Our mortal form for mortals' sake!**

**For us baptized, for us He bore
His holy fast and hungered sore;
For us temptations sharp He knew,
For us the tempter overthrew.**

**For us to evil power betrayed,
Scourged, mocked, in purple robe arrayed,
He bore the shameful cross and death,
For us gave up His dying breath.**

**For us He rose from death again;
For us He went on high to reign;
For us He sent His Spirit here,
To guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.**

**All glory to our Lord and God
For love so deep, so high, so broad:
The Trinity whom we adore
Forever and forevermore.**

*OPENING PRAYER

Holy and ever-living God, by your power we are created and by your love we are redeemed. Open our ears to hear your voice and follow your call; open our hearts that true justice and wisdom may abound; and open our hands that peace might prevail on earth. In Christ, you give us a friend and a guide through the shadow of death who leads us into light that we may fear no evil. Strengthen us by your Spirit, that we may give ourselves to your service and live this day in love toward one another and toward you; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

ANTHEM “Lift Up Your Heads” Peter Niedmann

SERVICE OF GIVING

Invitation

Offertory

*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

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

SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 55:1-11

PSALM 63:1-8

O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,
as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.

**Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place,
that I might behold your power and your glory.**

For your loving-kindness is better than life itself;
my lips shall give you praise.

**So will I bless you as long as I live
and lift up my hands in your name.**

My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

**when I remember you upon my bed,
and meditate on you in the night watches.**

For you have been my helper,
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

**My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 13:1-9

SERMON “Truth and Light Appear”

THE LORD’S SUPPER

INVITATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

THANKSGIVING FOR BREAD AND CUP

**We thank you, O Christ,
that scattered though we are, with different needs and hopes
you call us together at this meal and unite us as one body.**

**We thank you for this bread and cup set before us,
food and drink to nourish us in body and in spirit, signs of your life-giving love.
May they speak to us
of the everyday made holy,
of life made new,
of hope for your realm among us.**

We remember that on the night of his arrest...

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**O God, through this bread and cup you have made us one with you and with each other.
May the unity we find at this table be a gift that we carry out into your suffering and
divided world. Help us find strength in knowing that you, the God of peace, will always be
with us. Amen.**

* HYMN 223 “O My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer” (s. 1, 2, 4, & 6)

**O my soul, bless your Redeemer;
All within me, bless God's Name;
Bless the Savior, and forget not
All God's mercies to proclaim;**

**God forgives all your transgressions,
All diseases gently heals;
God redeems you from destruction,
And with you so kindly deals.**

**As it was without beginning,
So it lasts without an end;**

**To their children's children ever
Shall God's righteousness extend.**

**Bless your Maker, all you creatures,
Ever under God's control,
All throughout God's vast dominion;
Bless the Lord of all, my soul!**

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Call to Worship—alt. from Church of Scotland, Weekly Worship, March 21, 2021. Used with permission.

Opening Prayer—alt. from *A New Zealand Prayer Book*

Cover Artwork: Tissot, James, 1836-1902. Vine Dresser and the Fig Tree, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56111> [retrieved March 24, 2022]. Original source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Brooklyn_Museum_-_The_Vine_Dresser_and_the_Fig_Tree_\(Le_vigneron_et_le_figuier\)_-James_Tissot.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Brooklyn_Museum_-_The_Vine_Dresser_and_the_Fig_Tree_(Le_vigneron_et_le_figuier)_-James_Tissot.jpg) Used with permission. When Tissot's carefully researched collection of 350 watercolors depicting the life of Jesus was first published as a book in 1896, it found a large and enthusiastic audience. No one who had followed his previous career could have anticipated that this painter of urban life in Paris and London would undertake the project of painting virtually every event in the Gospels.

The Life of Our Lord Jesus Christ project took nearly ten years to complete. When it was done, it chronicled the entire life of Jesus as recorded in the New Testament in a series of 350 watercolors. To research the project Tissot traveled to Egypt, Syria, and Palestine in 1886–87, and again in 1890.

While in the Holy Land he closely observed the landscape, the vegetation, the architecture, and the manner of dress, and filled sketchbooks with what he saw. He talked with rabbis and studied Talmudic literature as well as theological and historical volumes. [from Terry Glaspey's "75 Masterpieces Every Christian Should Know"]

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.

IMPORTANT DATES IN LENT AND EASTER

(As with all things as the pandemic continues, these dates, times, and places are subject to change.)

- April 3—Fifth Sunday in Lent: Communion Sunday
- April 10—Palm Sunday: Worship with Distribution of Palms, One Great Hour of Sharing Offering
- April 14 Maundy Thursday: Worship in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.; Communion and Service of Tenebrae
- April 15, Good Friday: Worship in the Sanctuary at Noon
- April 17, Easter Sunday: Early Service 8:00 a.m.; Easter Breakfast; 8:30 a.m.; Festival Easter Service in the Sanctuary at 10:15 a.m.

“The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come . . .” (Song of Solomon 2:12)

PLEASE HELP “SHOWER” THE SANCTUARY WITH FLOWERS: Starting the first Sunday in April, the 3rd, please feel empowered to bring flowering plants to fill the sanctuary by Easter. If the Easter lilies, tulips, crocus or daffodils are a memorial for a loved one, please let the office know.

COFFEE HOUR RESUMES AFTER WORSHIP THIS MORNING. The Deacons will once again be serving coffee—and, yes, donut holes—after worship. Rockwood Hall will be open for conversation. Masks will be optional.

THE CHURCH COUNCIL IS FORMING A SAFETY COMMITTEE to review building security and related issues. If you would like to be a part of this important work, please talk with Tom Mittman or call the church office at 319-337-4301.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING: On Palm Sunday, April 10, we will dedicate our One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering. 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.

This year’s theme, “Love Remains,” comes from Paul’s well-known words: “And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.” (1 Cor. 13:13) 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. You can watch videos about the work that OGHS makes possible [by clicking here:](#)

Let us join in this great tradition and give generously, not because we have to, but because we can.



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

VETERANS FOR PEACE CHAPTER #161 WILL HOLD A COMMUNITY READING OF A MARTIN LUTHER KING SPEECH, MONDAY, APRIL 4, 1PM TO 6PM outside of the Congregational UCC. The public is invited to listen to the speech that Martin Luther King delivered fifty-five years ago, on April 4, 1967. Known as “A Time to Break Silence,” it is one of the most controversial and provocative speeches that King made. Individuals are invited to read a portion of the speech. The event is sponsored by. For further information, contact John Jadryev, 319 430-2019 or Ed Flaherty 319 621-6766. April 4th also marks fifty-four years since King was assassinated in Memphis. The speech, and excerpts from the April 3rd Memphis speech, take nearly an hour to read, and they will be repeated five times.

PLEASE JOIN COMMUNITY’S [6TH ANNUAL HUNGER BANQUET](#) on Thursday, April 21 at the Coralville Hyatt Regency. Doors open at 5:00, program begins at 6:30. This is a unique event that gives participants a glimpse at the scope of financial hardship and hunger in Johnson County. During this event, guests will be assigned to represent real Johnson County income demographics, which will determine the meal they receive. 13% of attendees will represent 19,600 neighbors experiencing food insecurity. **If you're ready to make a difference in the lives of local families who struggle with hunger, please register to attend the 6th Annual Hunger Banquet by Friday, April 15. Because Congregational UCC is a sponsor of this event we have seats available at a table. If you are interested in attending, please talk with Chuck Dayton, Laurie Stunz, or Bill Lovin or call the church office at 319-337-4301. We need to let CommUnity know the names of those attending. Registration deadline is April 15th. Please consider joining us in this cause.**

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.