



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

WORSHIP FOR APRIL 5, 2026
EASTER SUNDAY

“The resurrection is God’s way of getting our attention. It is God’s way of making us listen up, God’s way of getting us to look, to listen, and to live.”

Peter Gomes

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Marsha Lowe, Liturgist

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

PRELUDE “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

arr. Stephen Walters

CHORAL INTROIT

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Come out of shadows into light.

Come out of grief into joy.

Come out of fear into hope.

Christ who was dead

Is raised to life

[Unison]

Let us rise to greet the risen Christ.

***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**

We want to greet you, O God, with joy today, but we come still filled with trepidation and fear. Astonish us again with your resurrection story. Remind us of its power to sustain us from one challenge to another. Give us the faith that can find the common purpose to overcome these present hardships and overwhelming troubles. May each one of us with all our difficulties and opportunities go forward in faith and hope. Help us to remember that nothing in the past, present, or future can separate us from your love. With such trust, all our days will be glad and filled with joy. Amen.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#118, vs. 3)**

**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 “Good Christians All” arr. S. Drummond Wolff

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 "Christ lag in Todesbanden, BWV 625 - J. S. Bach
(Hymn #110)

*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 I Corinthians 15:20, 53-58

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled:

'Death has been swallowed up in victory.'

'Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?'

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

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 Luke 24:1-11

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

*HYMN 109 (vs. 1 & 3) "Christ Is Risen"

**Christ is risen, Christ is living,
dry your tears, be unafraid!
Death and darkness could not hold him,
nor the tomb in which he lay.
Do not look among the dead for
one who lives for evermore;
tell the world that Christ is risen,
make it known he goes before.**

**Death has lost its old dominion,
let the world rejoice and shout!
Christ the first-born of the living,**

**gives us life and leads us out.
Let us thank our God who causes
hope to spring up from the ground;
Christ is risen, Christ is giving
life eternal, life profound.**

SERMON “In the Light of the Resurrection”

*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
“Easter Fanfare” David Ashley White

POSTLUDE “Prelude in G Major,” BWV 568 J. S. Bach

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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	Jenn Harden

TODAY

- ❖ Sunrise Service 7:30 am
- Easter Breakfast Starting at 8:00 am
- Choir Rehearsal 8:30 am
- No Christian Education
- Worship Service 10:15 am
- Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall After Worship

TUESDAY

- ❖ Gentle Yoga 11:00 am
- Board of Christian Education 6:00 pm
- Mission Board 7:00 pm
- Stewardship Board (Zoom) 7:00 pm

THURSDAY

- ❖ Prairie Piffari Rehearsal 6:30 pm

SATURDAY

- ❖ Women's Reading Group 11:00 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
- 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.

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO MADE OUR LENTEN OBSERVANCES AND EASTER CELEBRATIONS SO SPECIAL THIS YEAR:

The Board of Christian Education for sponsoring the Ash Wednesday dinner, the children of the church school for their Palm Sunday procession, the confirmation class for leading the Sunrise Service, the men of the church serving the Easter breakfast, all who read or sang or played instruments during worship or led worship, everyone who contributed to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering, all who taught during these weeks, and everyone who has joined us for worship throughout Lent and this morning.

BILL LOVIN WILL BE WORKING THIS WEEK from Monday through Thursday. He will take next weekend and the following week off. The Rev. Craig Henderson will preach on April 12. The Rev. Libby Conley will preach on April 19.

THE WOMEN'S READING GROUP—APRIL 11: The Women's Reading Group are reading and discussing *Holy Envy -Finding God in the Faith of Others* by Barbara Brown Taylor. We'll meet from 10-11am in Rockwood Hall this coming Saturday to discuss chapters 7 & 8. We will

meet on the second Saturday of each month through June. If you're interested, contact Marsha Lowe or Rebecca Weatherford or sign-up in Rockwood Hall.

ADULT EDUCATION NEXT SUNDAY: Mission Board LGBTQ Subcommittee members will discuss their February trip to Des Moines for LGBTQ+ Day on the Hill. A slew of proposed anti LGBTQ legislation did not deter them and some 200 others from showing up, singing, talking with our legislators. They will also discuss plans for the upcoming Rainbow Graduation in May and the Pride Parade in June. Join them around the fireplace in Rockwood Hall at 9:15.

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.

AFTER WORSHIP ENCOUNTER (AWE) WILL MEET RESUME NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 12, AFTER WORSHIP. There is no meeting today. Generally, we gather on the Sundays that the choir meets after worship to rehearse for their Special Music Sunday on May 31. We 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.

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO GAVE TO THE ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING (OGHS) OFFERING ON PALM SUNDAY. We received over \$5,800—and there is still time to give or give again. Please use the special OGHS envelopes in the pews or include “OGHS” on the memo line of your check online giving. 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 50 giving churches. One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) involves us in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, through our offering, we are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery.

Through OGHS we engage in holistic development programs including health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing and women’s empowerment. Because the UCC relates in mutual partnership to churches and organizations through Global Ministries and worldwide response & recovery networks, our contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing put us in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniment and recovery of the most vulnerable. We meet immediate needs and address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place.

SEEKING CHURCH LIBRARIAN: The board of Christian Education would like to thank Patte Henderson for her faithful stewardship of our library for the past several years! Patte is stepping down from her position and we are seeking a new Church librarian. This volunteer position works with the CE board to manage and develop the church library collection. If you are interested, please speak to Hope Spragg or anyone on the CE board.

MYSTERIES REVEALED: The Deacons invite everyone to help with hospitality, ushering, and greeting. In an effort to unveil the mysteries of these duties, the Deacons are having an informational get together on April 18th at 9AM in Rockwood Hall. Please join us! There is a sign up sheet in Rockwood Hall.

THE MISSION BOARD IS ONCE AGAIN A SPONSOR FOR THE TABLE-TO-TABLE DINNER, to be held on April 22, 5:30-7:30 at the Celebration Farm, Double Round Barn, 4696 Robin Woods Ln NE, Iowa City IA, 52240. We have 9 seats available for church members. If you would like to attend, please let the church office know this week, as we need to submit the names of those attending to the organizers. Unfortunately, we will be unable to support additional persons once 9 have signed up. There will also be silent and live auction as well as raffle tickets for prizes.

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.

USED MEDICINE BOTTLES NEEDED FOR REUSE IN CLINICS: 100 Grannies, a local environmental activist group, is sending used plastic medicine bottles to Africa to assist clinics in distributing medication. Donna Hirst is in charge of this project and would be pleased to have participation from members of the congregation. If you are interested, the labels from the plastic bottles need to be removed, and the bottles need to be washed in soapy water. More information will be in the church newsletter. Donna will pick up bottles on Sundays.

CARBON OFFSET HELPS HABITAT FOR HUMANITY: Have you ever wanted to compensate for CO2 emissions from a flight or other carbon intensive activity? Carbon offsets are a recognized way to make an activity carbon neutral. Carbon offsets are also often viewed with skepticism due to concerns about whether the money given is truly decreasing carbon emissions and whether the action would have happened without the donation.

Those concerns can be assuaged with a donation to put solar arrays on Habitat for Humanity homes. The homeowners do not have the resources to make an upfront investment in a solar array and once installed the system is likely to stay in place for the lifetime of the panels. In

addition to reducing CO2 emissions the donor would be helping a low income Iowa family with their energy bills.

To estimate your flight emissions and send an offset to Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity go to www.habitatsolar.org/. Please contact Jamie McCoy or see the bulletin board in Rockwood Hall for more information.

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.