



“Mary Anoints Christ’s Feet,” ca. 1503

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

WORSHIP FOR MARCH 30, 2025  
FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

PRELUDE    “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”                      Richard Warner

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS                      Kathi Koegle, Liturgist

CHORAL INTROIT

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

We meet in the presence of God,

**who knows our needs and hears our cries.**

We gather in the love of God,

**which heals our wounds and forgives our iniquities.**

We are redeemed by the mighty acts of God,

**who offers mercy in our brokenness and justice that reconciles us.**

We bring our whole selves before God,

**who loves us in our deepest being.**

**\* HYMN 473 "For the Beauty of the Earth" (vs. 1-4)**

**For the beauty of the earth**

**For the glory of the skies,**

**For the love which from our birth**

**Over and around us lies**

**Lord of all, to Thee we raise**

**This our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the wonder of each hour**

**Of the day and of the night,**

**Hill and vale and tree and flower**

**Sun and moon and stars of light,**

**Lord of all, to Thee we raise**

**This our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the joy of ear and eye,**

**For the heart and mind's delight,**

**For the mystic harmony**

**Linking sense to sound and sight,**

**Lord of all, to Thee we raise**

**This our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the joy of human love,**

**Brother, sister, parent, child,**

**Friends on earth and friends above**

**For all gentle thoughts and mild,**

**Lord of all, to Thee we raise**

**This our hymn of grateful praise.**

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

**O God, we seek your company so we may remember how you breathed the spirit of life into us, that we might delight you and love our neighbors. Through these lengthening days, strengthen our prayers and our acts of tenderness. When the company of others strains us and makes us weary with the work of understanding, uphold us with your grace. May we discover the beauty in your world once more and share your abundant compassion. Amen.**

\*CONGREGATIONAL REPONSE (#473)

**For the good that love inspires, for a world where none exclude  
For a faith that never tires, and for every heart renewed  
Lord of all to Thee we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.**

ANTHEM     “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”                      Gustav Holst

SERVICE OF GIVING

Invitation

Offertory     “Trio in G Minor,” op. 19, no. 1                      Josef Rheinberger

\*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

The children are dismissed to Children’s Church

SCRIPTURE LESSON                      Isaiah 43:16-21

PSALM 126

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,  
then were we like those who dream.

**Then was our mouth filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with shouts of joy.**

Then they said among the nations,  
"The Lord has done great things for them."

**The Lord has done great things for us,  
and we are glad indeed.**

Restore our fortunes, O Lord,  
like the watercourses of the Negev.

**Those who sowed with tears  
will reap with songs of joy.**

[Unison]

**Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON                      John 12:1-8

SERMON     “Finding Strength among Friends and Family”

## THE LORD'S SUPPER

### INVITATION

HYMN (insert)            "From the Crush of Wealth and Power"  
**From the crush of wealth and power something broken in us all  
waits the Spirit's silent hour pleading with a poignant call,  
bind all my wounds again.**

**Even now our hearts are wary of the friend we need so much.  
When I see the pain you carry, shall I, with a gentle touch,  
bind all your wounds again?**

**When our love for one another makes our burdens light to bear,  
find the sister and the brother, hungry for the feast we share;  
bind all their wounds again.**

**Every time our spirits languish terrified to draw too near,  
may we know each other's anguish and, with love that casts out fear,  
bind all our wounds again.**

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

#### REMEMBERING

On the night of his arrest...

**Eternal God, in this communion, with this bread and with this cup, increase our faith and hope and love. Lead us in the path of Christ who brings your word of life. Amen.**

#### SHARING OF ELEMENTS

(Communion will be served in the pews today. Please receive the bread or cup as they are offered to you by a deacon. Hold it until all have been served, and we will eat and drink together at the pastor's guidance. We serve grape juice, not wine. Gluten-free wafers are on the trays with the bread. In the Congregational United Church of Christ, we celebrate the Lord's Supper with openness and welcome. Everyone is invited to the table, regardless of church membership or denominational affiliation.)

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Let this meal that we have shared, O God, put our minds on the things that lead to life and give us strength to go out to face all that life will require of us this week. Amen.**

\*HYMN 394            "There Is a Balm in Gilead"

**There is a balm in Gilead  
To make the wounded whole.  
There is a balm in Gilead**

**To heal the sin-sick soul.**

**Sometimes I feel discouraged,  
And think my work's in vain,  
But then the Holy Spirit  
Revives my soul again. (Refrain)**

**Don't ever feel discouraged,  
For Jesus is your friend,  
And if you lack for knowledge  
He'll not refuse to lend. (Refrain)**

**If you cannot preach like Peter,  
If you cannot pray like Paul,  
You can tell the love of Jesus  
And say "He died for all." (Refrain)**

**\*BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE**

**POSTLUDE** “Fantasy on the Hymn Tune *Picardy*”

Call to Worship—Fourth Presbyterian Church, Chicago, adapted.

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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**

|                                  |               |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| ❖ 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      |
| Youth Group                      | 5:00 pm       |

#### **NEXT SUNDAY**

|                                  |          |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| ❖ Choir Rehearsal                | 9:00 am  |
| Christian Education for all ages | 9:15 am  |
| Worship Service—Palm Sunday      | 10:15 am |

Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall  
Choir Rehearsal  
Bible Study

After Worship  
11:30 am  
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.

**FLOWERS FOR EASTER:** Members and friends are invited to bring tulips, lilies, daffodils, or other flowering plants to the church to help make the sanctuary "bloom" for Easter.

Plants can be left in the kitchen, dropped off on Saturday morning, April 19, or brought on Easter Sunday. Please let Jenn Harden know by April 17 if your flowers are in memory/honor of someone.

**COMMUNITIES ACTING IN CRISIS:** This morning we will look at the part the churches played in creating the 1989-91 "Monday Demonstrations" in Leipzig, Germany, that led to the collapse of East Germany and the coming down of the Wall.

This week we will "crowd source" the information that we will bring to the discussion. You can begin your investigation by reading the Wikipedia article on the demonstrations [here](#). Then you can search further on Google to find the bits and pieces of information scattered on the Web. Then we'll come together to share what we know. Robin Thomas-Lovin will lead the discussion and she will hand out excerpts from a book (!) on the demonstrations.

On the Sundays in Lent, Bill Lovin is leading the Adult Education sessions, looking at "Communities Acting in Crisis." We'll explore how Christian communities responded to protect people, stand up for the rights of others and themselves, and challenge authorities in difficult times. Join us around the fireplace in Rockwood Hall at 9:15 a.m.

**8-WEEK BIBLE STUDY:** The Rev. Ann Molsberry is offering an 8-week Bible study that promises to cover the whole Bible in one 8-week sweep. We will use *The Unfolding Drama of the Bible* by Bernhard Anderson. We meet AFTER worship at 11:30 in the library every Sunday in March and April except Easter Sunday. Everyone is invited. We decided not to have lunch together...but bring your book, your Bible and your curiosity!

**THE WOMEN'S READING GROUP** is reading *In the Sanctuary of Women* by Jan Richardson. We will gather in Rockwood Hall on April 12 at 10:00 to discuss Chapter 2, "A Habit of the Wildest Bounty, The Book of Brigid". All women of the church are invited.

**ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN OUR YOUTH GATHERING TODAY FOR A CLEAN UP AT MERCER PARK FOLLOWED BY THE COMMUNITY SEDER AT THE SENIOR CENTER.** If you have children younger than middle school age, we ask that you either plan to stay with us or if you have an older sibling or youth assigned to help with specific child supervision. Wear outdoor appropriate clothing and bring a pair of gardening or light cotton gloves. If weather is questionable, we will postpone the cleanup and meet directly at the Senior Center. Meet at 5 PM at Mercer Park- youth can be dropped without a parent and we will arrange a carpool spot for the transition to the Seder. At 6 PM, we will carpool to the Senior Center for a

service and potluck. Youth can be picked up from the Senior Center at 8:15.

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

**NURSERY CARE FOR HOLY WEEK:** Sunday, April 13, 9-12:30; Maundy Thursday service, April 14, 6:45 PM-8:15; No nursery care during Good Friday noon service; Easter Sunday, April 20, 9-11:30.

**THERE WILL BE AN INFORMATIONAL MEETING FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN AN INTERGENERATIONAL SERVICE TRIP** Tuesday, April 8 at 7 PM in Rockwood Hall. All who are interested are welcome to attend and ask questions. Please come to this meeting even if you're interested in future trips but are not able to attend this summer's pending trip to Asheville, NC the week of July 20.

**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!

**THE MISSION BOARD HAS RESERVED 2 TABLES 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.

**THE PREEMINENT PERFORMERS OF AFRICAN AMERICAN SPIRITUALS, THE FISK JUBILEE SINGERS**, will be on the Cornell College campus to workshop spirituals with the combined Cornell choirs, resulting in a concert at 7 p.m. Saturday, April 19, at Mount Vernon United Methodist Church. The concert is open to the public and free general admission tickets can be [reserved online](#) to ensure seating. The church is located two blocks from campus at 304 First Street SW in Mount Vernon. Fisk was founded in 1866 by the American Missionary Association of the Congregational Church. Fisk was founded in 1866 by the American Missionary Association of the Congregational Church. The first students ranged in age from seven to seventy, but shared common experiences of slavery and poverty — and an extraordinary thirst for learning. Fisk continues to be affiliated with the United Church of Christ.

#### **IMPORTANT DATES IN LENT AND EASTER**

**April 6—Fifth Sunday in Lent;** Communion Sunday

**April 13—Palm Sunday—**Worship with Distribution of Palms; One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

**April 17—Maundy Thursday—**Worship in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.; Communion and Service of Tenebrae

**April 18—Good Friday—**Worship in the Sanctuary at Noon



**April 20—Easter Sunday**—Breakfast in Rockwood Hall starting at 8:00 a.m.; Festival Easter Service in the Sanctuary at 10:15 a.m.

**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.

**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.



