



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

WORSHIP FOR MAY 25, 2025
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

PRELUDE “Allemande” Dietrich Buxtehude

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
Christ is risen!

Nathan Peters, Liturgist

Christ is risen indeed!

CHORAL INTROIT

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

The Spirit of the living God breathes upon us,
and on all that is finite and fragile.

**God is our refuge and our strength,
a help in times of trouble.**

God’s continual presence makes new possibilities break through.
Be strong and let your heart take courage.

In the company of God

**and joined with the company of God's people,
let us worship together.**

***HYMN 455 "All Creatures of Our God and King" (vs. 1-4)**

**All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice and with us sing,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
Thou silver moon with softer gleam,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
Ye clouds that sail in heaven along,
O sing ye! Alleluia!
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
Ye lights of evening, find a voice!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
Make music for thy Lord to hear,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou fire so masterful and bright,
That givest us both warmth and light,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Thou fertile earth, that day by day
Unfoldest blessings on our way,
O sing ye! Alleluia!
The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,
Let them God's glory also show!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

***OPENING PRAYER**

God our creator, in you we live and move and have our being. We thank you for this life and for the beauty and wonder of these days. As we live surrounded by your grace and mercy, may we love others as we have been loved. Help us to be slow to judge and quick in showing compassion. Help us to live in the freedom of Christ and strengthen us for the work of reconciliation. Put a new spirit within us that we might be fully alive to your goodness and more readily love our neighbors. Amen.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#455, vs. 5)**

**And everyone of tender heart
Forgiving others, take your part.
O sing ye! Alleluia!
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
Praise God and cast on God your care.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Questions for the parents and the congregation

Prayer

The baptisms of Reese Mae Reynolds

ANTHEM "Blessed Be the Name" Dale Grotenhuis

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 "Fughetta" (D Major) G.F. Handel

*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 Deuteronomy 30:15-16, 19-20

See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

PSALM 103:1-5, 8-12, 14-15, 17-18

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

**Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all the benefits of the Lord,**
who forgives all your sins
and heals all your infirmities;
**who redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;**
who satisfies you with good things,
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

**The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and of great kindness.**

The Lord will not always accuse us
nor remain angry forever.

**The Lord has not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.**

For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so is the Lord's mercy great upon the God-fearing.

**As far as the east is from the west,
so far has the Lord removed our sins from us.**

For the Lord knows whereof we are made
and remembers that we are but dust.

**Our days are like the grass;
we flourish like a flower of the field.**
But the merciful goodness of the Lord endures forever on the God-fearing,
and the righteousness of the Lord on children's children;
**on those who keep the holy covenant
and remember the commandments and do them.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 12:6-7

Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten in God's sight. But even the hairs of your head are all counted. Do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

SERMON "Remembering Who We Are"

*HYMN (insert) "You Are Salt for the Earth, O People"
**You are salt for the earth, O people, salt for the kingdom of God!
Share the flavor of life, O people: life in the kingdom of God!**

**Refrain:
Bring forth the kingdom of mercy, bring forth the kingdom of peace.
Bring forth the kingdom of justice, bring forth the city of God!**

**You are a light on the hill, O people, light for the city of God!
Shine so holy and bright, O people: shine for the kingdom of God!**

Refrain:

**You are a seed of the Word, O people, bring forth the kingdom of God!
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice, grow in the kingdom of God!**

Refrain:

**We are a bless'd and a pilgrim people, bound for the kingdom of God!
Love our journey and love our homeland: love is the kingdom of God!**

Refrain:

*BENEDICTION and CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE "Fugue in C Major," BWV 952 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

❖ Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am
Christian Education—Children/Youth	9:15 am
Worship Service	10:15 am
Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall	After Worship

MONDAY

❖ Church Office Closed in Observance of Memorial Day

TUESDAY

❖ Yoga	10:00 am
Church Council	7:00 pm

NEXT SUNDAY

❖ Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am
Christian Education—Children/Youth	9:15 am

Worship Service--Communion
Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall

10:15 am
After Worship

WE'RE GLAD THAT YOU HAVE JOINED US FOR WORSHIP THIS MORNING.

Everyone is invited to Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall after worship.

THIS MORNING WE BAPTIZE Reese Mae Reynolds, the daughter of Eric and Lauren Reynolds and the granddaughter of Bruce Reynolds and Kathy Thede-Reynolds.

PLEASE NOTE: The church office will be closed on Monday, May 26, in observance of Memorial Day.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE RECOGNITION—This morning we recognize high school graduates in our congregation. This year Dylan Beerends, McKenzie Brown, and Noam Morton will graduate from City High. The Diaconate has books available in Rockwood Hall in which you can share your thoughts and good wishes with Dylan, McKenzie, and Noam. In addition, we are recognizing our three nursery care providers, Norah Kauper, Lanira Siron, and Thalia Svec, who are also graduating from City High.

SUNDAY SCHOOL will be held through June 1. Mark your calendar, we will celebrate that Sunday morning with a Pancake Party! We will make the pancakes during Sunday School, Children and youth are encouraged to bring their favorite pancake topping/side to share.

A HUGE THANK YOU TO the congregation for participating in our Camp Stronghold bake sale fundraiser. We raised over \$300 towards tuition for Peter Spragg and Alex Butler. We leave Sunday, June 8, after church and will come home with stories to share!

WE HAVE A COUPLE OF OPENINGS FOR lower elementary and high school Sunday school teachers in the fall. If you feel called to work with children or youth, please reach out to Hope Spragg for more details!

JOIN US FOR YOGA in the upstairs Sunday school room this Tuesday, May 27 or June 3, we've extended one week due to popularity, we will resume regular sessions in the fall! This 45-minute session is appropriate for beginner to anyone wishing to focusing on body awareness, increased mobility and relaxation. Wear comfortable clothes and bring a yoga mat if you have one. Suggested donation: \$10 (cash, check, or online). Please note "IWN" in the memo line for online or check donations. All proceeds will support the Immigrant Welcome Network

WEAR RED ON PENTECOST SUNDAY, JUNE 8. Pentecost marks God's gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church and our morning will be a spirited time together. The traditional color for Pentecost is red. We invite everyone to please consider wearing "flame colors"—red, orange, yellow—to worship on Sunday, June 8.

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING WILL BE RECEIVED ON PENTECOST

SUNDAY—JUNE 8. Each year we receive a special offering that helps the church's love to grow and thrive. The "Strengthen the Church" offering grows the United Church of Christ's future by supporting new and renewing churches, youth and young adult ministries, and lay and pastoral leadership development—especially among women and people of color. It also funds the "Stillspeaking" Ministry, spreading the message of God's extravagant welcome, reaching out especially to those who have felt there is no room for them within Christianity and the church. On Sunday, June 8—Pentecost Sunday—we will receive this offering. Your generous gift will help the UCC create vibrant church communities of extravagant welcome.

THE WOMEN'S READING GROUP will gather again on June 14 @10:00 in Rockwood Hall to discuss chapter 4 of *In the Sanctuary if Women* by Jan Richardson: "Say What You See: The Book of Hildegard of Bingen." All women are invited and welcome to join the group at any time.

IOWA CITY PRIDE FESTIVAL IS SATURDAY, JUNE 21, and the Mission Board members invite you to participate in the parade and/or the booth. Last year more than 40 members of the congregation including friends and family enjoyed the celebration. In 2025 we welcome everyone to join us as we proudly show love and support for the LGBTQ+ community and celebrate the historic inclusive commitment of our denomination and congregation where all are welcome. For more information or to share your willingness to help contact any member of the subcommittee: Dianne Atkins, Martha Ann Crawford, Linda Muston, Hope Spragg, Rebecca Weatherford or Julie Wittig.

ALL CHURCH PICNIC—SUNDAY, JUNE 22: Bring your family, bring your friends, and join us on Sunday, June 22, at Shelter 12 in Lower City Park from 4-7 p.m. Restrooms and parking are near the shelter. Our Membership Board will provide drinks and dessert. Please bring a dish to share and your own plates and tableware. You're welcome to bring games and play equipment, musical instruments, lawn chairs, and anything else that will make for a happy gathering.

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!

BOOK READING AT PRAIRIE LIGHTS: May 25 @ 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm. Dianne Prichard will read from and talk about her book, *Raising America: Building a More Perfect Union*. Inspired by the fragile state of our American democracy and the desire to preserve it, *Raising America* reads like a workbook with practical tips on how to maintain democracy as an individual and within your own community. Each chapter offers specific, proven, and practical "to do" activities for individuals or for groups, including how to hold meaningful conversations between people with different political perspectives and positions. *Raising America* is a great introduction to the political process for anyone who'd curious and doesn't know where to start! Prichard co-authored this book with colleague Charles P. Kniker.

Dianne Prichard is a retired high school teacher and advocate of caring for people and caring for the earth. She was a public school teacher for 33 years. She is currently a Lutheran pastor, and lives in Dewitt, Iowa.

Charles R. Kniker is professor emeritus of education at Iowa State University and former staff member of the State of Iowa Board of Regents. He is an ordained United Church of Christ minister and former president of Eden Seminary and the author of numerous previous books including *Spirituality that Makes a Difference*. He lives in Ames, Iowa.

VOICES OF FAITH TOWN HALL MEETING—Tuesday, May 27, 7:00 p.m. at the Purpose Place, 611 Southgate Ave., Iowa City. . An interfaith group of local clergy is holding a Town Hall Meeting to speak about what it means to care for the poor, protect the earth, cherish EVERYONE in the state of Iowa, and resist Christian Nationalism. We live in dangerous times, and our faith voices are needed now more than ever as everything from basic human rights to democracy itself is under attack. Join us as we add the moral voices of our various faith traditions to the chorus of hopeful resistance that is now building today. For more information, please contact Ryan Downing at 319-594-2671.

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.