

Spring Music Sunday



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

WORSHIP FOR MAY 31, 2026
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *"Cantabile,"* Op. 41, No. 4 Félix-Alexandre Guilmant

CHORAL INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 98)

O sing to the Lord a new song,
for God has done marvelous things.

**Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.**

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
the world and those who live in it.

**Let the floods clap their hands;
let the hills sing together for joy
at the presence of God.**

For God is good;

God's steadfast love endures forever.

*HYMN 218 (vs. 1 & 2) "New Songs of Celebration Render"

**New songs of celebration render
To God who has great wonders done;
Love sits enthroned in ageless splendor;
Come and adore the Mighty One.
God has made known the great salvation
Which all his friends with joy confess.
God has revealed to every nation
Truth and unending righteousness.**

**Joyfully, heartily resounding,
Let every instrument and voice
Peal out the praise of grace abounding,
Calling the whole world to rejoice.
Trumpets and organs, set in motion
Such sounds as make the heavens ring;
All things that live in earth and ocean,
Sound forth the song, your praises bring.**

* OPENING PRAYER (a prayer of Henri Capieu)

God, we sing to you and give you thanks. In the midst of our pain and misgivings, you call forth from us our praise and love.

For the world, so beautiful and so fragile; for life, so lovely and so threatened; for this immense universe in which your realm is spread, we give you thanks.

For this day which speaks to us again of the resurrection, for your Spirit which unites us in all our separate places, we give you thanks.

And because we can love you and love each other on the earth, in the name of the love of Christ, in peace and with joy, God, we praise you. Amen.

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#218, vs. 3)

**Rivers and seas and torrents roaring,
Honor the Lord with wild acclaim;
Mountains and stones look up adoring,
And find a voice to praise God's name.
Righteous, commanding, ever glorious,
Praises be sung that never cease;
Just is our God, whose truth victorious
Establishes the world in peace.**

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 “Allegretto grazioso” Eugène Gigout

*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 are dismissed to Children's Church)

SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 38:18-20

For Sheol cannot thank you;
death cannot praise you;
those who go down to the Pit cannot hope
for your faithfulness.
The living, the living, they thank you,
as I do this day;
parents make known to children
your faithfulness.
The Lord will save me,
and we will sing to stringed instruments
all the days of our lives,
at the house of the Lord.

PSALM 116

I love the Lord, because the Lord has heard the voice of my supplication
and inclined an ear to me whenever I cried out.

**The cords of death entangled me;
the grip of the grave took hold of me;
I came to grief and sorrow.**

Then I called upon the name of the Lord:

"O Lord, I pray you, save my life."

**Gracious is the Lord and righteous;
our God is full of compassion.**

The Lord watches over the innocent;
I was brought very low, and the Lord helped me.

**Turn again to your rest, O my soul,
for the Lord has treated you well.**

For you have rescued my life from death,
my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.

**I will walk in the presence of the Lord
in the land of the living.**

I believed, even when I said,

"I have been brought very low."

In my distress I said, "No one can be trusted."

**How shall I repay you, O Lord,
for all the good things you have done for me?**

I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call upon the name of the Lord.

**I will fulfill my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all the chosen people.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Colossians 3:12, 14-16

Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.

HYMN 264 (vs. 1, 2, & 4) "When in Our Music God Is Glorified"

**When in our music God is glorified,
and adoration leaves no room for pride,
it is as though the whole creation cried:**

Alleluia!

**How often, making music, we have found
a new dimension in the world of sound
as worship moved us to a more profound**

Alleluia!

❖ Gentle Yoga 11:00 am
Church Council 7:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

❖ Funeral Service for Del Brown 1:00 pm

SATURDAY

❖ Music Sunday Rehearsal

NEXT SUNDAY

❖ Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am
❖ Church School for Children and Youth 9:15 am
Worship Service—Music Sunday 10:15 am
Spring Brunch 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.

GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOR—Nametags help newer members and friends trying to put names and faces together. And—admit it—they help long-timers know who the new people are as well. They are available on the board outside of the sanctuary. Please wear them. And if you'd like one, please contact the church office.

VISITATION COMMITTEE: The Membership Board is forming a group of volunteers who would be willing to occasionally contact/visit church members who are homebound or would enjoy a visit. If you are interested see the sign-up sheet in Rockwood Hall.

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO GAVE TO THE STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING ON PENTECOST, MAY 24. We received over \$1000 for the offering that 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. There is still time to give! Please use the special envelopes in the pews.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CELEBRATION: Join us on Special Music Sunday, May 31, for our last Sunday School class of the year as we celebrate a great year together and welcome the start of summer.

REQUIEM—SUNDAY, MAY 31: Please join us in worship on Sunday, May 31, for what promises to be a memorable performance of Faure's *Requiem Mass*, featuring the Congregational UCC Choir, conducted by Dr. Christopher Nakielski and accompanied by organist William Crouch. Additionally, this performance will feature an orchestra comprising area professionals, in addition to vocal soloists Marie Von Behren (soprano) and Dr. Benjamin Laur (baritone). You won't want to miss this timeless classic!

THIS MORNING'S PERFORMANCE OF THE GABRIEL FAURÉ *REQUIEM* IS SUPPORTED BY THE BLOESCH MUSIC FUND, established in 1991 in commemoration of

the 20th anniversary of Dr. Richard Bloesch as the Church Music Director. Continued donations from church members and others allow us to present significant sacred music works within worship twice a year on Special Music Sundays.

THE MEMBERSHIP BOARD IS HOSTING A SPRING BRUNCH in Rockwood Hall after our worship this morning. During this time, we will recognize members who joined the church this past year. The brunch will be catered, so, no need to bring anything. All are welcome.

THE MISSION BOARD LGBTQ+ SUBCOMMITTEE IS LOOKING FOR SOMEONE WITH A PICKUP TRUCK or van to transport materials to and from our Ped Mall church booth on Saturday, June 20 for the Iowa City Pride Festival. The vehicle is needed from 9:00-10:00 a.m. to transport materials from the church to our downtown booth, and from 4:00-5:00 p.m. to return everything to the church for unloading. If you are interested, the truck driver is also welcome to drive the parade route with us and carry passengers in the back! If you or any friends with a truck or van can help us, please contact Rebecca Weatherford or Julie Wittig. Thanks.

THE WOMEN'S READING GROUP—JUNE 13: The Women's Reading Group will conclude its reading of *Holy Envy -Finding God in the Faith of Others* by Barbara Brown Taylor, discussing chapters 11,12 and the epilogue on Saturday, June 13, from 10-11am in Rockwood Hall. If you're interested, contact Marsha Lowe or Rebecca Weatherford or sign-up in Rockwood Hall.

WOMEN'S READING GROUP LUNCH: All are invited to a potluck salad lunch on Saturday, June 13 at 11:45 in Rockwood Hall. Bring a salad; bring a friend. Place settings, rolls and beverages will be provided. Come join us for this fellowship time. No RSVP needed. Questions? Contact Marsha Lowe or Rebecca Weatherford.

CYCLING WITHOUT AGE AT THE BIKE LIBRARY offers free e-assisted bike rides originating from the Ashton House and looping through City Park. If you or someone you know would benefit from this "ride through the park" as a passenger, see the sign-up in Rockwood Hall or talk to Hope Spragg to arrange a ride. More info available at: <https://icbikelibrary.org/cycling-without-age!>

THE IOWA CITY PRIDE FESTIVAL AND PARADE IS SATURDAY, JUNE 20 IN DOWNTOWN IOWA CITY. Our church family will again participate in the noon parade and host a booth from 1 to 4 p.m. Sign-up sheets are now posted in Rockwood Hall for parade participants, booth volunteers, and setup/takedown crews. Mission Board members invite you to join in the Pride festivities as we honor, celebrate, and support our LGBTQ+ community. More announcements are coming soon.

SENDING USED MEDICINE BOTTLES TO AFRICA FOR REUSE IN CLINICS—IMPORTANT REQUEST:

1. Please donate only **orange** bottles; other colors should be recycled. Caps can be any color.

2. Bottles must have labels and all adhesive removed. Sticky bottles or bottles with residue should be recycled. I can't use them. If this is difficult for you, consider finding a partner who can help you prep the bottles.
3. Bottles should be washed in warm, soapy water. We don't want to inflict harm on individuals who could come into contact with foreign medicine.

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 our congregation. For more information contact donna-hirst@uiowa.edu. She will pick up bottles on Sundays. Thank you for your assistance.

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.