



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

WORSHIP FOR MAY 4, 2025
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Today is a communion Sunday. If you are joining us online, you are invited to get whatever you eat and whatever you drink before the beginning of worship. It can be bread and grape juice or wine or as simple as a cracker or rice cake and water for use in our worship.

“We are OK, but all is not well.”
The Rev. William Barber, II

PRELUDE “Andante sostenuto,” Op. 72, No. 2 Felix Mendelssohn

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

CHORAL INTROIT

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

“Jesus showed himself to his disciples...”

In the first light of morning

Christ invites us to follow on his way.

In the last light of evening

Christ comes among us to stay.

Christ comes to accompany us

In the middle of the day.

Come, welcome the light

And share in the risen life of Christ.

Let us worship God.

***HYMN 104 “Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!”**

Christ is risen! Shout hosanna!

Celebrate this day of days!

Christ is risen! Hush in wonder:

All creation is amazed.

In the desert all-surrounding,

See, a spreading tree has grown.

Healing leaves of grace abounding

Bring a taste of love unknown.

Christ is risen! Raise your spirits

From the caverns of despair.

Walk with gladness in the morning.

See what love can do and dare.

Drink the wine of resurrection,

Not a servant, but a friend.

Jesus is our strong companion.

Joy and peace shall never end.

Christ is risen! Earth and heaven

Nevermore shall be the same.

Break the bread of new creation

Where the world is still in pain.

Tell its grim, demonic chorus:

"Christ is risen! Get you gone!"

God the First and Last is with us.

Sing Hosanna, everyone!

***OPENING PRAYER**

God of resurrection, when our hearts are weary, help us to watch and wait and work for the new thing you are doing in our world and in our midst. Give us, your creatures, the words to speak of your forgiving grace that brings us into a new day. As we worship, may we find renewal in your care and strength in your Spirit for the days ahead. Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#464, vs. 1)

**Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee,
Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!**

ANTHEM “Easter Fanfare: Christ the Lord Is Risen” Paul Fetter

SERVICE OF GIVING

Invitation

Offertory “Consolation No. 1” Franz Liszt

*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 CHOIR “He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands”
(The children are dismissed to Children’s Church)

SCRIPTURE LESSON I Peter 1:13-16

PSALM 95:1-7

Come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

**Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to the Lord with psalms.**

For the Lord is a great God,
and a great Sovereign above all gods.

**The Lord holds the caverns of the earth,
and sustains the heights of the hills.**

The sea belongs to God, who made it,
whose hands have molded the dry land.

**Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.**

[Unison]

**For the Lord is our God,
and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand.
Oh, that today you would hearken to God's voice!**

SCRIPTURE LESSON John 21:9-25

SERMON “The Things Resurrection Makes Possible”

THE LORD’S SUPPER

INVITATION

HYMN 514 (vs. 1 & 2) “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”

**Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy.
Bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.**

**Refrain:
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again;
pass the Word around: loaves abound!**

**Christ is able to make us one.
At the table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love in word and in deed express. [Refrain]**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

REMEMBERING

The Lord Jesus, on the night of his arrest...

Let us pray together:

**Risen Christ, as we eat this bread, come close to us.
As we drink this cup, keep us close to you.
Help us recognize in the present
the promise of life made new. 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 us go from this place, O God, sustained by your good gifts found in this meal. In communion with you and with one another, may we live our lives with compassion and care. May we go out seeking the goodness you find in creation. Amen.

* HYMN 514 (vs. 3) “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”

**Jesus calls us in, sends us out
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share.
God (Emmanuel) everywhere!
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again;
pass the Word around: loaves abound!**

*BENEDICTION and CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE “March” Christoph von Gluck

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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

TUESDAY

❖ Yoga	10:00 am
Mission Board	7:00 pm
Board of Christian Education	7:00 pm
Stewardship Board (Zoom)	7:00 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
Bible Study	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 GAVE TO OUR ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING on Palm Sunday. So far, we have received nearly \$5000. 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. There's still time to give—or to give more. Please use the special OGHS envelopes in the pews and/or put "OGHS" on your check memo line.

ADULT EDUCATION WRAPS UP WITH THE LAST SUPPER: On May 4 and 11, John and Randee Fieselmann will lead discussions on the meanings of the Last Supper, with slides and commentary about depictions of the Last Supper across the ages, ending with Leonardo's most famous fresco. Join us in Rockwood Hall at 9:15 a.m.

AFTER WORSHIP BIBLE STUDY: The Rev. Ann Molsberry's Bible Study will meet for the final two sessions on Sunday, May 4 and Sunday May 11. As long as the choir rehearses after worship, we will meet.

BAKE SALE: Next Sunday, May 11 (Mother's Day), Alex Butler and Peter Spragg will sell incredibly delicious homemade baked goods. All proceeds will support their adventure to Camp Stronghold in June.

SPRING SPECIAL MUSIC SUNDAY—MAY 18: Please join us on May 18th as the Congregational UCC Choir offers Jake Runestad's "The Hope of Loving," a multimovement work for chorus, string orchestra, and soloists, featuring our own members as soloists, Marie Von Behren (soprano) and Colin Wilson (tenor), along with guest soloist Brian Banion (bass). The "Hope of Loving" uses a selection of writings inspired by spiritual mystics throughout history to explore the idea of love and its manifestation in our lives.

THE MEMBERSHIP BOARD IS HOSTING A SPRING BRUNCH in Rockwood Hall after our worship on May 18, our spring Special Music Sunday. 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. To help us plan, we would like to get an approximate count of how many people will attend. Please indicate on the sign-up sheets in Rockwood Hall if you plan to attend and how many may be coming with you. We are looking forward to this time to celebrate spring and enjoy beautiful music.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL will be held through June 8. Mark your calendar, we will celebrate that Sunday morning with a Pancake Party! We will make the pancakes during Sunday School, children are encouraged to bring their favorite pancake topping/side to share.

JOIN US FOR GENTLE YOGA LED BY HOPE SPRAGG EVERY TUESDAY in May at 10:00 AM in Rockwood Hall. 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. Come move, breathe, and support a great cause with your church family!

THE WOMEN'S READING GROUP is reading *In the Sanctuary of Women* by Jan Richardson. We will meet on May 10 at 10:00 to discuss chapter 3: "A Way in the Wilderness, The Book of the Desert Mothers." All women are invited.

THE MISSION BOARD IS A PRESENTING SPONSOR FOR THE UNITED ACTION FOR YOUTH'S FESTIVAL OF FLOWERS, which provides us with a table for 8. This event, May 22, 2025 at the Graduate Hotel at 5 PM is the single fundraiser for UAY. Hors d'oeuvres and wine will be served. The show will feature over 100 floral arrangements from community members and professional florists, available to purchase in a silent auction. Dinner parties, travel packages and more will be featured in a live auction. UAY's mission is to nurture the potential for all youth to create, grow and succeed. They provide crisis and mediation programs, counseling, health education, music programs, LGBTQ+ programs, homeless youth services, and a young parent program. In 2024, the counseling services provided 3146 sessions for 314 families, safe and stable housing for 46 youth, and support to 65 families including 102 children. UAY supports three of the six MB priorities for 2025: Medical/Mental Health, Children/Youth, and LGTBQ+. If you would like to attend, please let Jenn Harden (uccicadmin@uccic.org) know.

IOWA CITY PRIDE FESTIVAL is Saturday, June 21—less than two months away—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.

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!

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.