



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

WORSHIP FOR MAY 5, 2024
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Today is a communion Sunday. If you are worshiping with us online, before joining the worship service, you are invited to get whatever you eat and whatever you drink. 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.

“There is only one gift, to bear fruit, and any branch can do that if it remains with Jesus.”
Gail O’Day

PRELUDE “Moderato” Johann Pachelbel

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
Christ is risen!

Sue Dayton, Liturgist

Christ is risen indeed!

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Let us gather in the presence of God.

**Let us abide in God’s love
that we might live fruitful lives.**

Let us be open to God's transforming love
That we might follow in the way of Jesus Christ.

***HYMN 483 "Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above" (vs. 1-3)**

**Sing praise to God who reigns above,
the God of all creation,
the God of power, the God of love,
the God of our salvation.
With healing balm my soul is filled
and every faithless murmur stilled:
To God all praise and glory!**

**What God's almighty power hath made
God's gracious mercy keepeth;
By morning glow or evening shade
God's watchful eye ne'er sleepeth;
Within the kingdom of God's might,
Lo! all is just and all is right:
To God all praise and glory!**

**The Lord is never far away,
but through all grief distressing,
an ever present help and stay,
our peace and joy and blessing.
As with a mother's tender hand,
God gently leads the chosen band:
To God all praise and glory!**

*** OPENING PRAYER**

The earth around us blossoms with the spring, O God, and everywhere, your people would like to bloom anew. Parts of ourselves and of our lives have been cut back in unexpected ways. Help us to sort out what is loss and what is best left trimmed away so we may begin to grow again.

Remain with us still, as you have all our days. Extend our connections to one another like vines trailing along the ground, but do not leave us there. Raise us up, like the gardener that you are, on the arms of branches as you tend your vines. Let us bear good fruit and stand, a presence in our world. Amen.

*** CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#482, vs. 4)**

**Thus all my gladsome way along,
I sing aloud thy praises,
that all may hear the grateful song
my voice unwearied raises.
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart,**

SCRIPTURE LESSON John 15:1-5

SERMON "How to Get Things Done"

THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

HYMN 314 "Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song" (vs. 2-3)

**To the members of Christ's body,
to the branches of the Vine,
to the church in faith assembled,
to our midst as gift and sign:
come, Holy Spirit, come.**

**With the healing of division,
with the ceaseless voice of prayer,
with the pow'r to love and witness,
with the peace beyond compare:
come, Holy Spirit, come.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

REMEMBERING

On the night of his arrest...

**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

Thank you, O Christ, for this meal which connects us one to another. May this give us strength reach out across the spaces that separate us from others. Let us remember that just as you abide with us, we abide in you when we extend ourselves in loving others. Amen.

* HYMN 418 "God, Bless Your Church with Strength"

**God bless your church with strength!
Wherever we may be,
up build your servants as we work
in common ministry.
Urge us from fledgling faith
to venture and to soar
through open skies to sing the praise
of Christ whom we adore.**

**God bless your church with life!
May all our branches thrive,
unblemished, wholesome, bearing fruit,
abundantly alive.
From you, one holy vine,
in freedom may we grow;
sustain us in our mission, Lord,
your love and peace to show.**

**God bless your church with hope!
Despite chaotic days,
may we in chaos shine to light
a pathway through life's maze.
May justice be our aim,
and kindness ours to share;
in humbleness O may we walk,
assured our God is there!**

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Maestoso” Julius André

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“Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song” (BRIDEGROOM) - Carl Daw, Peter Cutts
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Minister:	The Rev. Bill Lovin
Director of Children's Programs:	The Rev. Ann Molsberry
Organist:	Bill Crouch
Choir Director	Dr. Chris Nakielski
Children's Choir Director	Majesty Constable

Office Manager

Jenn Harden

TODAY

- ❖ Church School Breakfast 9:00 am
- Christian Education 9:15 am
- Worship Service 10:15 am

TUESDAY

- ❖ Board of Christian Education 6:30 pm
- Mission Board 7:00 pm

NEXT SUNDAY

- ❖ Church School Breakfast 9:00 am
- Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am
- Christian Education 9:15 am

WE'RE GLAD THAT YOU ARE WORSHIPPING WITH US THIS MORNING. Everyone is invited to Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall after worship.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE RECOGNITION—MAY 12: Every year we recognize the high school graduates in our congregation. This year Sylvia Woolums will graduate from City High. The Diaconate has a book available in Rockwood Hall in which you can share your thoughts and good wishes with Sylvia. We will recognize her during worship on May 12.

WEAR RED ON PENTECOST SUNDAY—MAY 19: We will celebrate Pentecost on May 19. This day completes the long arc from Ash Wednesday through Easter resurrection to the coming of the Holy Spirit to the followers of Christ—a journey “from ashes to fire.” 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, May 19.

THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD IS ACTIVELY SEARCHING FOR A NEW DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION. A complete job description is posted on the church website. Advertising will commence by the end of March. Members of the congregation are encouraged to spread the word and have interested persons contact Rev. William Lovin uccirev@uccic.org and Sally Strang sallystrang@mchsi.com.

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO THE AGAPE CAFE FUNDRAISER at Old Brick on Saturday, May 4th from 8:00 to 11:00 am. Please feel free to come for a free breakfast and conversation. The Congregational UCC provides financial support to Agape Cafe, a provider of weekly free breakfasts for those who come. Come see what they do!

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.

ANOTHER WAY TO HELP THE HOMELESS: Trinity United Methodist Church of Riverside Iowa has purchased a loom and is using clean, plastic bags to construct Sleeping Mats for the homeless. These are lightweight, waterproof, and easy to pack and carry. By contributing our clean, plastic bags, we can help them help others. Bring your clean, unneeded, plastic grocery bags, or trash bags, any color, any size, here, to Rockwood Hall. We will see to it that they are delivered.

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/154m7852>. The recordings remain up permanently, so you can watch past worship services at your convenience or recommend them to a friend.