



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

WORSHIP FOR MAY 8, 2022
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

I find it awkward to call myself a poet or writer. If there are no walls there are no names. This is the morning, after the dispersion, and the work of the morning is methodology: how to use oneself, and on what. That is my profession. I am an archaeologist of morning.

Charles Olson

PRELUDE “Moderato” Colin Mawby

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Andrea Rauer, Liturgist

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed!

CHORAL INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The work of God surrounds us,

we will respond with praise.

The love of God is visible,

we will respond in faith.

The word of God is calling,

we will respond in hope.

The wind of the Spirit is moving,

we will respond with joy.

*HYMN 469 “Morning Has Broken”
Morning has broken like the first morning
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird
Praise for the singing, Praise for the morning
Praise for them springing fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain’s new fall, sunlit from heaven
Like the first dewfall on the first grass
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden
Sprung in completeness where God’s feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight, Mine is the morning
Born of the one light Eden saw play
Praise with elation, praise every morning
God’s recreation of the new day!

*OPENING PRAYER

Gracious and holy God, we come to you because you have first come to us. We know you because you have revealed yourself. Give us in this morning hour of worship a new sense of your Spirit breathing through us. Lift our hearts with the wings of song, heal our souls with the balm of prayer, enliven our minds with the words of scripture and interpretation, and newly enable us to dedicate our strength, our substance, and our service to your work in the world; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

ANTHEM “How Excellent is Your Name” Robert Wetzler

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 “Chant” Alan Ridout

*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 MESSAGE

(At this time, children are dismissed to attend Children's Church.)

SCRIPTURE LESSON Ecclesiastes 3:9-15

PSALM 78:1-7

Hear my teaching, O my people;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

I will open my mouth in a parable;

I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.

That which we have heard and known,
and what our ancestors have told us,
we will not hide from their children.

**We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord,
and the wonderful works God has done.**

God set up decrees for Jacob
and established a law for Israel,
commanding them to teach it to their children;

**that the generations to come might know;
that they in their turn might tell it to their children;**

[Unison]

**so that they might put their trust in God,
and not forget the deeds of God,
but keep God's commandments.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 13:51-52

SERMON "What We Learned in the Pandemic (So Far)"

* HYMN 121 "That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright"

**That Easter day with joy was bright,
The sun shone out with fairer light,
When, to their longing eyes restored,
The apostles saw their risen Lord.**

**O Jesus, King of gentleness,
Do all our inmost hearts possess
And we to You will ever raise
The tribute of our grateful praise.**

**From every weapon death can wield,
Your own redeemed forever shield;
O Lord of all, with us abide**

In this our joyful Eastertide.

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE “Maestoso” Colin Mawby

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Minister:	The Rev. Bill Lovin
Director of Children’s Programs:	The Rev. Ann Molsberry
Organist:	Bill Crouch
Choir Director	Chris Nakielski
Office Manager	Jenn Harden

WE’RE GLAD THAT YOU HAVE JOINED US FOR WORSHIP THIS MORNING. We are putting the safety of both the vaccinated and the unvaccinated in our congregation and the community first. Masks are required for all people in all parts of the building. We will keep social distance in the pews. Everyone is invited to Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall after worship. Masks are optional in Rockwood Hall during Coffee Hour.

USHERS, GREETERS, AND HOSPITALITY OPPORTUNITIES: As we continue to reopen, there are new 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.

SPRING SPECIAL MUSIC SUNDAY—MAY 22: On Sunday, May 22nd, the UCCIC Choir will launch another wonderful Special Music Sunday performance of Haydn's "Little Organ Mass." The work will be conducted by Dr. Christopher Nakielski, featuring soprano soloist Marie Von Behren, William Crouch on the organ, and several area instrumentalists. This beautiful, miniature mass (approximately 16 minutes) is thought to come from Haydn's stay at Eisenstadt during the winter of 1777-78.

WE’RE SERVING AT THE FREE LUNCH PROGRAM IN MAY. When there is a fifth Monday in a month, Congregational UCC serves at the Free Lunch Program. Interested in helping in some way? Please email Vicki at vickithomae@gmail.com. Thanks!

SIGN UP FOR *CHANGE AGENT*: AN ONLINE UCC MISSION BOARD SOCIAL CHANGE BULLETIN BOARD: The Mission Board is responding to requests from the congregation and creating an Online Social Change Bulletin Board. This monthly email publication will be a system that will include notices of rallies, petitions, upcoming legislative or policy actions warranting letters or phone calls, protests, important meetings of the school board or city council, each of which has the potential to increase social justice. Highest priority alerts

will be local actions, then state actions and national actions. Notices will not support political candidates or parties. More information is in the May Newsletter. We would be delighted if everyone in the congregation is interested in subscribing. If you would like to receive these monthly mailings send your contact information to Jenn Harden, uccicadmin@uccic.org . Our goal is to begin the mailings this month.

THE WOMEN'S LUNCH WILL RESUME on May 19, 11:45. at Monica's. Call or text Martha Ann Crawford—319-855-8340—to reserve a seat.

THE MEN'S BREAKFAST IN MAY will be held on the third Saturday, May 21. We'll gather at the Waterfront Hy-Vee at 8:00 a.m. Good food, great people. Join us! (No reservation needed.)

FESTIVAL OF FLOWERS: United Action for Youth will be hosting their 17th Annual Festival of Flowers on May 26th and you are invited! The theme of this year's Festival of Flowers event is "Look for the Helpers." The flower show will feature nearly 100 creative floral entries from community members and professional florists that will be available for purchase in a silent auction. An on-line auction will feature upscale packages such as dinner parties, interior design services, date nights, photo sessions and behind the scenes access to some of Iowa City's most beloved arts organizations. The evening's entertainment will be the Bloomin' Throwdown - a live floral arranging competition! Charcuterie and wine will be provided as part of your reservation. Make your reservation online at www.biddingowl.com/Auction/home.cfm?auctionID=29857.

TABLE TO TABLE IS IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS to help with maintaining their mission of connecting abundance with need in Johnson County. They are incredibly flexible: whatever your schedule is, they can probably work with it! They have volunteers that come in twice a week and volunteers that come in twice a month and both are valuable to the organization. Duties can include: harvesting produce at farms and orchards, driving or riding in T2T vans on routes to pick up and deliver food, helping prep vans for their routes in our shop (move empty boxes around while listening to some tunes!), offering free fresh produce in at-need neighborhoods, and more. If your interest is piqued, check out their website (table2table.org), contact us at volunteer@table2table.org or at 319-337-3400.

WANT TO GIVE ONLINE? SCAN THE QR CODE FOR OUR GIVING APP.

Your giving makes a world of difference.



WE ARE NOW LIVE STREAMING 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.