



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

WORSHIP FOR JUNE 1, 2025
SEVENTH 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.

PRELUDE “Meditation” Flor Peeters

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
Christ is risen!

Kathi Kogle, Liturgist

Christ is risen indeed!

CHORAL INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The heavens proclaim your glory, O God.

May our voices do that, too.

The mountains melt like wax before you, O God.

May hardened hearts do so, too.

May we gather as your community, sculpted by the freedom of love and in the liberty of grace,
that all may gather here and be given voice

**to proclaim you God of all the earth,
and give thanks to your holy name. Amen.**

*HYMN 483 “Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above”

**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!**

**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,
both soul and body bear your part:
To God all praise and glory!**

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Liberating God, we pray for those imprisoned in a silence not of their own, where a world has decided to take their voice and replace it with a deeper silence made of prejudice, and fear, and power. We want to be a loving people, but hear us as we confess the times we have ignored another’s need, leaving them without a voice to cry for justice, to cry for peace, to cry for truth. May we share their silence in our confession.

(silence is kept)

**We confess: the times we have turned our backs on those who are too much trouble.
We confess the times we have not listened to others' needs.
We confess what we have taken for ourselves that belongs to another.
We confess the times we have chosen not to see others.
We confess the times we have lost our own voice because of fear of speaking the truth.
We confess the times we have not been your disciples in seeking peace, and inclusion, and freedom.**

***WORDS OF AFFIRMATION**

One: O God, we hear your voice speak up for us with words of forgiveness and affirmation.
May we raise our voices for those who are imprisoned in ways of silence, and break that silence as you have broken ours. Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *280, vs 2 & 3

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!**

**Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come:
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.**

ANTHEM "I Know That My Redeemer Liveth" Flor Peeters.

SERVICE OF GIVING

Invitation

Offertory "Cantique" Flor Peeters

*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 "This Little Light of Mine"
(The children are dismissed to Children's Church)

SCRIPTURE LESSON Acts 16:16-34

PSALM 97

The Bestower of Life reigns with mercy,

let the earth rejoice! Let the heavens be glad!

**Justice preserves creation, allowing it to blossom and thrive;
hidden within creation, You are the Heart of everything.**

Fire goes before You, burning away the chaff and the tares.

Your Light enlightens the world;

there is none to compare with You, O Great Transformer!

**All of creation is clothed with your majesty,
mirroring your Love through the cosmos.**

The heavens proclaim your righteousness;

and the peoples behold your glory.

**Those who walk in darkness dwell in a house of fear,
zealously following their desire for power;
they live in the shadows of reality.**

Heaven delights and rejoices

when a hardened heart breaks open

and recognizes Love's ever-patient Presence abiding within.

For You, O Beloved, encompass and bless all the earth;

You forgive our wrongdoings and welcome us home.

You, O Beloved, are known by those who are true to the Promise,

You are the Light of the saints; You hide yourself in every soul.

Light dawns for the just, and joy for the upright of heart.

Rejoice in the Most High, O people of the Light,

and give thanks to the Radiant One, the Bestower of Life!

SCRIPTURE LESSON John 17:20-26

SERMON "Faith in 'One'"

THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION and BLESSING

HYMN 508 "For the Bread Which You Have Broken"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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 OF THANKSGIVING

*HYMN (insert) “As a Fire Is Meant for Burning”

**As a fire is meant for burning
with a bright and warming flame,
so the church is meant for mission,
giving glory to God’s name.
Not to preach our creeds or customs,
but to build a bridge of care,
we join hands across the nations,
finding neighbors everywhere.**

**We are learners; we are teachers;
we are pilgrims on the way.
We are seekers; we are givers;
we are vessels made of clay.
By our gentle, loving actions,
we would show that Christ is light.
In a humble, listening Spirit,
we would live to God’s delight.**

**As a green bud in the springtime
is the sign of life renewed,
so may we be signs of oneness
'mid earth’s peoples, many hued.
As a rainbow lights the heavens
when a storm is past and gone,
may our lives reflect the radiance
of God’s new and glorious dawn.**

*BENEDICTION and CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE “March” Flor Peeters

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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

NEXT SUNDAY

- ❖ Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am
- Worship Service--Communion 10:15 am
- Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall 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.

WE WELCOME THE REV. CRAIG HENDERSON to our pulpit this morning. Craig is a UCC minister and a new member of our congregation. The Rev. Ann Molsberry will be preaching next Sunday. The Rev. Bill Lovin is on sabbatical during the month of June.

DRAINAGE PROJECT UPDATE: The disturbed areas around our church are part of a once in a generation drainage project, designed to upgrade our capacity to handle precipitation and prevent damage to our foundation. We have replaced all gutters and downspouts and are taking advantage of the University's utility tunnel replacement project, to allow us to more effectively move water away from our building and into storm sewers. Excavation for underground tiling will continue on our east and south sides. All areas will be repaved as needed. We expect the work to be completed during the first week of June. Parking at the church will be limited during this work. Your patience is appreciated.

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, June 3. We've extended the sessions one week due to popularity and 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 NO KINGS PROTEST—JUNE 14: NO KINGS is a national day of action and mass mobilization in response to increasing authoritarian excesses and corruption: crackdowns on free speech, detaining people for their political views, the threatened deportation of American citizens, and defiance of the courts. **On Saturday, June 14, people will show up across the United States to say no thrones, no crowns, no kings.** The flag belongs to us. Join your neighbors at the corner of Iowa and Clinton from 11 am-2pm.
A core principle behind all No Kings events is a commitment to nonviolent action. We expect all participants to seek to de-escalate any potential confrontation with those who disagree.

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!

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.