



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

WORSHIP FOR JUNE 15, 2025
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Is this the dirt road,
Winding through the windy trees,
That I must travel?

That frozen star there,
Or this one on the water, —
Which is more distant?

Burning out its time,
And timing its own burning,
One lonely candle.

-- Three haiku by Richard Wright

PRELUDE "Give Me Jesus" Mark Hayes

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Chuck Connerly, Liturgist

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Here, O God, we gather:

**at the crossroads of busyness and rest, of judgment and mercy, of conflict and peace,
of want and needs.**

Here at this crossroads, we come to hear your wisdom,

**calling to us over the noise of the marketplace; over the hubbub of competing voices,
competing desires, possibilities and calamities.**

Here, O God, meet us.

**Enable us to slow, to stop, to stand and hear your Wisdom speak to us again: of the
beauty of your earth; of the gift that is each one gathered here; of the joy you bring.**

[UNISON]

**Here, O God, meet us. For we have come to celebrate your creation, to be renewed
in you, to live by your rhythm.**

***HYMN #132 “Come, Great God of All the Ages”**

**Come, great God of all the ages,
Make Your earthly mission known;
Speak through every deed and person,
Let Your way and will be shown.
Guide the church to true commitment,
Give direction now, we ask;
Fit us for the work of building,
Dedicate us to the task.**

**Come, Christ Jesus, flesh and spirit,
Sure foundation, cornerstone,
Help us form the church eternal,
May Your vision be our own.
Send a message to each follower,
Lead all people to Your way;
Urge us to strong faith and action
As we build the church today.**

**Come, great Spirit, in and with us,
Tune our ears to hear Your call;
Through the moving of Your presence.
Let redeeming love recall
Ministry in dedication,
Love embodied in our deeds;
Challenge us to do Your bidding,
See Your purpose, fill all needs.**

**Come, O come, in celebration,
Household of the one true God.
In commitment and rejoicing
Let us go where Christ has trod;
As we act in faith and reverence.
Let us, Lord, the future see;**

**Place us in the church triumphant,
Now and for eternity.**

***OPENING PRAYER**

God of peace, God of justice, God of freedom, we give you thanks for your cadences of peace, justice, and freedom, cadences that have surged through the lives of Martin, of Rosa, . . . and all that nameless mass of risk-takers [, those on and off our shores,] who have been obedient to your promises and susceptible to your dreams.

Deliver us from amnesia concerning their courage in the face of violence, their peace-making against hate, and their hunger for you in a devouring economy.

Deliver us from amnesia: turn our memory into hope, turn our gratitude into energy, turn our well-being into impatience.

That these same cadences of your will may pulse even among us. Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#135, vs 1 & 3)

**God is One, unique and holy, endless dance of love and light;
Only source of mind and body, star - cloud, atom, day and night:
Everything that is or could be tells God's anguish and delight.**

**God is One through desolation: blindness, treason, blood and gall;
One, though torn by separation in the Christ's forsaken call;
One through death and resurrection; One in Spirit, One for all.**

SOLO "Give Me Jesus"
 Kevin Koepnick

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.

SERVICE OF GIVING

Invitation

Offertory

"Swing Low, Sweet Chariot"

John Carter

*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

(The children are dismissed to Children's Church)

SCRIPTURE LESSON Romans 5:1-5

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

PSALM 8

O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens.

**Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark
because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.**

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established;

**what are humans that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?**

Yet you have made them a little lower than God
and crowned them with glory and honor.

**You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet,**

all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,
the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

SCRIPTURE LESSON— John 16:12-15

I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

SERMON “The Wisdom Found in Sacred Needs”

*HYMN #460 “Holy God, We Praise Your Name”

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Holy God, We Praise Thy Name” Cindy Berry

Cover Art by Congregational UCC member, Robyn Hepker, Benson and Hepker Design.

“Come, Great God of All the Ages” (ABBOT'S LEIGH) - Mary Jackson Cathey, Cyril Vincent Taylor, Words and Music - ©1990 Hope Publishing Company. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-715458. All rights reserved.

Opening Prayer: Walter Brueggeman, “Deliver Us from Amnesia.” *Awed to Heaven, Rooted to Earth: Prayers of Walter Brueggeman*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2003. Pg. 13.

“God Is One, Unique and Holy,” Words - ©1983 Hope Publishing Company, Contributor: Brian Wren. Music - ©1983 Hope Publishing Company, Contributor: Peter Cutts. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-715458. All rights reserved.

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

- ❖ Worship Service 10:15 am
- Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall After Worship

THURSDAY

- ❖ Church Office Closed for Juneteenth Day

SATURDAY

- ❖ Men’s Breakfast—Waterfront Hy-Vee 8:00 am
- Pride Parade and Festival

NEXT SUNDAY

- ❖ Worship Service 10:15 am
- Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall After Worship
- Church Picnic

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. Craig will be preaching next Sunday as well. The Rev. Bill Lovin is on sabbatical during the month of June.

PLEASE NOTE: The church office will be closed on Thursday, June 19, in celebration of Juneteenth Day.

DRAINAGE PROJECT UPDATE: Our once in a generation drainage project, designed to upgrade our capacity to handle precipitation and prevent damage to our foundation, is nearly completed. 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. The excavation for underground tiling and the repaving on our east and south sides are finished. Parking in the church lot is back to normal. We appreciate your patience in recent weeks.

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!

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.

HOPE LODGE: Our next Hope Lodge dinner will be Monday, July 14 at 6:00 p.m. If you would like to contribute food for the dinner see the sign-up sheet in Rockwood Hall.

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!

SUMMER IS HERE AND THE AGAPE CAFE NEEDS YOUR HELP! They are looking for folks to volunteer at the Cafe Wednesday mornings until the end of August. Once or twice a month would help out greatly. Pick what is calling to you: serving, cooking, dish washing, cleanup! You can sign up directly using [Signup Genius](#) or reach out with questions to agapebreakfast@gmail.com.

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.