

# *Oh, Freedom!*



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

WORSHIP FOR JUNE 16, 2024  
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

O, let my land be a land where Liberty  
Is crowned with no false patriotic wreath,  
But opportunity is real, and life is free,  
Equality is in the air we breathe.

Langston Hughes

PRELUDE “We Are Climbing Jacob’s Ladder” arr. Mark Hayes

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Dianne Atkins, Liturgist

**NO CHORAL INTROIT NOR OTHER CHORAL RESPONSES UNTIL THE CHOIR  
RESUMES IN SEPTEMBER**

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

Shout for joy to God, all the earth!  
Let us sing praises to the Lord our God.

**Let those who exalt themselves be humbled,  
and let the humble be made glad.**

Come and see what God has promised.  
Come and see what our Redeemer has done.

**Together, let us worship God.**

\*HYMN 209 “My Song Forever Shall Record”

**My song forever shall record  
The tender mercies of the Lord;  
Thy faithfulness will I proclaim,  
And every age shall know Thy Name.  
I sing of mercies that endure,  
Forever builded firm and sure.**

**Almighty God, Thy lofty throne  
Has justice for its cornerstone;  
And shining bright before Thy face  
Are truth and love and boundless grace.  
The heavens shall join in glad accord  
To praise Thy wondrous works, O Lord.**

**The swelling sea obeys Thy will,  
Its angry waves Thy voice can still;  
The heavens and earth, by right divine,  
The world and all therein, are Thine;  
The whole creation’s wondrous frame  
Proclaims its Maker’s glorious Name.**

**With blessing is the nation crowned  
Whose people know the joyful sound;  
They in the light, O Lord, shall live,  
The light Thy face and favor give.  
Their fame and might to Thee belong,  
For in Thy favor they are strong.**

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

**Holy God, hear our prayer. Today we come before you in rejoicing and in sorrow. We give you thanks for hard won freedoms. We bring our lament for freedoms unfulfilled. There is pain and there is sorrow; there are broken relationships and broken hearts. We have caused pain; we have broken relationships. We are also ones who suffer, ones who are broken. We ask for your forgiveness, and we ask for your healing. Help us turn from frustration and resignation to become people who can act and sustain and carry through to make real the promises of freedom. Amen.**

**\* CONGREGATIONAL REPOSE (#394, vs. 1 & 3)**

**There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole;  
there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.**

**Sometimes I feel discouraged and think my work's in vain,  
but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.  
There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole;  
there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.**

SOLO            "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands" arr. Margaret Bonds  
Marie Von Behren

**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        "There Is a Balm in Gilead" arr. Phillip Keveren

\*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

(The children are dismissed to Children's Church)

SCRIPTURE LESSON      Habakkuk 1:1-3, 2:1-4

PSALM 13

How long, O LORD?

Will you forget me forever?

how long will you hide your face from me?

**How long shall I have perplexity in my mind,  
and grief in my heart, day after day?  
how long shall my enemy triumph over me?**

Look upon me and answer me, O LORD my God;  
give light to my eyes, lest I sleep in death;

**lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed,"  
and my foes rejoice that I have fallen.**

But I put my trust in your mercy;  
my heart is joyful because of your saving help.

**I will sing to you, O LORD ,  
for you have dealt with me richly;  
I will praise the name of the Lord Most High.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON      Galatians 6:7-10

SERMON      "In Sorrow and Rejoicing"

\*HYMN 563 "Lift Every Voice and Sing" James Weldon Johnson, J. Rosamond Johnson

**Lift every voice and sing  
'Til earth and heaven ring  
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty  
Let our rejoicing rise  
High as the listening skies  
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea  
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us  
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun  
Let us march on 'til victory is won**

**Stony the road we trod  
Bitter the chastening rod  
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died  
Yet with a steady beat  
Have not our weary feet  
Come to the place for which our parents sighed?  
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered**

**We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered  
Out from the gloomy past  
'Til now we stand at last  
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast**

**God of our weary years  
God of our silent tears  
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way  
Thou who has by Thy might  
Led us into the light  
Keep us forever in the path, we pray  
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee  
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee  
Shadowed beneath Thy hand  
May we forever stand  
True to our God  
True to our native land**

**\*BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE “Every Time I Feel the Spirit”      Setting by John Carter

The Call to Worship comes from Fourth Presbyterian Church, Chicago.

Prayer of Confession by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, “Hold Fast to What Is Good.” Used with permission. Posted at <https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com/liturgy/prayer-of-confession/>. Adapted.

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Minister:	The Rev. Bill Lovin
Organist:	Bill Crouch
Choir Director	Dr. Chris Nakielski
Office Manager	Jenn Harden

**TODAY**

❖ Worship Service      10:15 am

**TUESDAY**

❖ Diaconate      7:00 pm  
Trustees      7:00 pm

**NEXT SUNDAY**

❖ Worship Service      10:15 am

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

**THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED WEDNESDAY,** June 19, in celebration of Juneteenth.

**PLAN NOW FOR THE CHURCH PICNIC, SUNDAY, JUNE 23.** Bring your family, bring your friends, and join us on Sunday, June 23, 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.

**A MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR DAVID SCHOONOVER** will be held at the church on Saturday, June 29, at 1:00 p.m.

**HOPE LODGE:** Our next Hope Lodge meal will be Monday, July 15. Please see the signup sheet in Rockwood Hall if you would like to provide food for the dinner.

**NAME TAGS:** As a welcoming gesture, church members are encouraged to wear their name tag for church services. This helps new members learn names. It also serves as a greeting to visitors. If your name tag is missing or you just can't find it, please contact the church office and ask Jenn to make a new one for you

**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 [uccicrev@uccic.org](mailto:uccicrev@uccic.org) and Sally Strang [sallystrang@mchsi.com](mailto:sallystrang@mchsi.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.

**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.