



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

WORSHIP FOR JUNE 22, 2025
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

“They were both my patients and they were two kids. I took care of both of them...of both their bodies. And... for a brief moment I wondered if this is how God feels when he looks down at us. How we are all his kids...Our bodies...Our souls...And I felt a great deal of compassion...for both of them.”

From the play, “The Laramie Project,” Dr. Cantway, speaking about two of his patients, Matthew Shepard and Aaron McKinney, convicted murderer of Matthew

PRELUDE “Prelude in C Major,” BWV 846 J.S. Bach

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tina Koepnick, Liturgist

*CALL TO WORSHIP

O God, we wait,	and our waiting is for you.
O God, we long,	and our longing is for you.
O God, we yearn,	and our yearning is for you.

And in silence,	we listen for your Spirit.
And in silence,	we hear our names.

And in silence, **we are found**

Sacred space, holding all silence; silence, holding the whole word of God;
word of God, holding all truth for the world; truth for the world, holding every hope of life;
hope of living, holding every grace of God; the grace of God, holding every moment of heaven;
moments of heaven, held in sacred space; sacred space, holding all silence;

In this sacred space, in our silences, God, we meet.

*HYMN (insert) “Silence, Frenzied, Unclean Spirit”

"Silence, frenzied, unclean spirit!"

cried God's healing Holy One.

**"Cease your ranting! Flesh can't bear it;
flee as night before the sun."**

**At Christ's words the demon trembled,
from its victim madly rushed,
while the crowd that was assembled
stood in wonder, stunned and hushed.**

**Lord, the demons still are thriving
in the gray cells of the mind:
tyrant voices, shrill and driving,
twisted thoughts that grip and bind,
doubts that stir the heart to panic,
fears distorting reason's sight,
guilt that makes our loving frantic,
dreams that cloud the soul with fright.**

**Silence, Lord, the unclean spirit
in our mind and in our heart;
speak your word that when we hear it,
all our demons shall depart.
Clear our thought and calm our feeling;
still the fractured, warring soul.
By the power of your healing
make us faithful, true, and whole.**

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

When we take counsel in pretty words that lack knowledge and wisdom,
forgive us.

When we speak with authority and condemnation about things we barely understand,
forgive us.

When we, in our ignorance, act as if we can control the morning stars or the lion's roar,
forgive us.

When we have forgotten you, O God, and have forgotten who we are,
forgive us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God, who speaks in whirlwinds and soft breezes, continues to speak to us now, even when we cannot find the words. Be assured that God's still small voice is planted deeply within each of us, for the sake of creation, creating in us still.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#132, vs. 1)

**Jesus, priceless treasure, source of purest pleasure, truest friend to me:
Long my heart hath panted, till it well-nigh fainted, thirsting after Thee.
Thine I am, O spotless Lamb, I will suffer nought to hide Thee,
Ask for naught beside Thee.**

SOLO "Prelude" from *Cello Suite 2* J. S. Bach
 Ben Copeland, trombone

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 "Invention No. 6 in E Major," BWV 777 J.S. Bach

*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—1 Kings 19:1-4, (5-7), 8-15a

PSALM 42 and 43

As a hart longs for flowing streams,
so my soul longs for you, O Beloved.
My soul thirsts for the Beloved, for the Living Water.
When may I come and behold your face?

**Tears have been my only nourishment day and night,
while friends ask continually, “Why do you seem so lost and forlorn?”**

All this I remembered, as I poured out my soul:
how I knew your Presence within me as I went out among the throng,
proceeding to the House of Prayer.
With loud voice we gave You praise and acclamation,
a multitude proclaiming gratitude and joy.

**Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are your disquieted within me?
My hope is in the Beloved, my strength and my joy,
O my soul, open the door to Love!**

My soul is cast down within me,
yet I remember You from my mother’s womb to maturity,
through all the days of my life.
Deep calls to deep at the thunder of your waterfalls;
all your waves and your billows have washed over me.

**By day You lead me in steadfast love;
at night your song is within me,
prayer from the Heart of my heart.**

I say to the Beloved, the Blessed One,
“Why have You forgotten me?
Why go I mourning because of the oppression of fear?”

**As with a deadly wound in my body,
I feel the pain of war and injustice;
while the powerful seem to destroy, the innocent seem of no account.**

O my soul, let not the quagmire of war keep me
from radiating your peace, your love and light to the world.
My hope is in You, O Spirit of Truth; be my strength and my guide.
O my soul, let us celebrate the Oneness of all Creation!

**. . . Yes, Let us sing a song of diversity,
a song of Oneness and Unity!
For we are all One in Love’s Heart,
now and forevermore. Let us ever reflect the Peace we are.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 8:26-39

SERMON “‘Return Home to Tell the Story’: On the Periphery of Matthew Shepard”

*HYMN 374 “Lord, Make Us Servants of Your Peace”

**Lord, make us servants of your peace;
where there is hate, may we sow love;
where there is hurt, may we forgive;
where there is strife, may we make one.**

**Where all is doubt, may we sow faith;
where all is gloom, may we sow hope;
where all is night, may we sow light;
where all is tears, may we sow joy.**

**Jesus, our Lord, may we not seek
to be consoled, but to console,
nor look to understanding hearts,
but look for hearts to understand.**

**May we not look for love's return,
but seek to love unselfishly,
for in our giving we receive,
and in forgiving are forgiven.**

**Dying, we live, and are reborn
through death's dark night to endless day;
Lord, make us servants of your peace,
to wake at last in heaven's light.**

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE “Fugue in C Major,” BWV 953 J. S. Bach

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

“Silence, Frenzied, Unclean Spirit”—Words - ©1986 Oxford University Press Contributor: Thomas H. Troeger. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-715458. All rights reserved.

PSALM: from Nan C. Merrill, “Psalm 42” and “Psalm 43” *Psalms for Praying: an Invitation to Wholeness*. New York: Continuum, 2008, 78-81.

“Lord, Make Us Servants” (tune: DICKINSON COLLEGE) Words and Music - ©1962 Theodore Presser Contributors: James Quinn, Lee Hastings Bristol, 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
Office Manager

Rachel Burchett
Jenn Harden

TODAY

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

NEXT SUNDAY

- ❖ Worship Service 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. Bob Molsberry will be preaching next Sunday. The Rev. Bill Lovin is on sabbatical during the month of June.

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!

TODAY'S THE DAY! ALL CHURCH PICNIC: Bring your family, bring your friends, and join us this afternoon 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!

SUMMER JAZZ WORSHIP SERVICE: Sunday, July 6, is the final day of the Iowa City Jazz Festival. We'll mark this occasion with a jazz worship service at 10:15 a.m. Our good friends in the Dick Watson quartet will provide the music. Join us—and bring a friend!

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO GAVE TO THE STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING ON PENTECOST (JUNE 8). 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. **THERE'S STILL TIME TO GIVE!** Please use the special "Strengthen the Church" envelopes and/or put "Strengthen the Church" on the memo line of your

check. Your generous gift will help the UCC create vibrant church communities of extravagant welcome.

WOMEN'S READING GROUP: On Saturday, July 19, at 10:00 a.m., we will discuss chapter 5, "The Mysteries of Making, The Book of Harriet Powers" at Women's Reading Group. I have fond memories of summer reading, and I'd gladly share a copy of *In the Sanctuary of Women* by Jan Richardson to anyone interested. All are welcome! –Rebecca Weatherford

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.

