



“Let Justice Roll Down Like Waters”

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

WORSHIP FOR JUNE 29, 2025
THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

“The homily is not being ‘political’ when it points out political, social, and economic sins. It is simply the word of God becoming incarnate in our reality.”

-Saint Oscar Romero, El Salvador

“The church was born from a movement of resistance, led by a man who knew what it meant to be poor and unseen. Jesus fed the people. He spoke out against the colluding religious leaders of his day. He pushed back against the Romans who colonized and occupied his home then. The church is a part of the resistance, a prophetic witness resisting the principalities and powers of this age. Resistance is in the sacred texts. Resistance is in the pulpits.”

Rev. Dr. [Karen Georgia A. Thompson](#), General Minister & President/CEO, UCC

PRELUDE “Shall We Gather at the River” John Carter

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kevin Koepnick, Liturgist

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Valued without distinction and called without favor;

We gather in the love of God.

Invited to places of deep change and entrusted with lives of grace;

We gather in the compassion of Christ.

Encouraged to be authentic and inspired to make a difference;

We gather in the power of the Spirit.

*HYMN 408

“Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life” (vs. 1-4)

**Where cross the crowded ways of life,
where sound the cries of race and clan,
above the noise of selfish strife,
we hear thy voice, O Son of Man.**

**In haunts of wretchedness and need,
on shadowed thresholds fraught with fears,
from paths where hide the lures of greed,
we catch the vision of thy tears.**

**From tender childhood's helplessness,
from human grief and burdened toil,
from famished souls, from sorrow's stress,
thy heart has never known recoil.**

**The cup of water given for thee
still holds the freshness of your grace;
yet long these multitudes to view
the sweet compassion of thy face.**

*OPENING PRAYER

God of surprise and awe, you who can turn our many hatreds and fears around;

Come to us in this time of worship.

Challenge our sure perspectives and unsettle our fixed opinions.

Above all, instill in us a vision for a new world

And a re-creative way of living wholeheartedly within it.

Amen.

ANTHEM

"Simple Gifts" composer Aaron Copeland, Arr. Irving Fine.
Women's Ensemble

TIME OF PRAYER

Prayers of the People

Silent Prayer

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.**
Congregational Response (#322)
**Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.**

SERVICE OF GIVING

Invitation
Offertory “Simple Gifts” 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

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE “What Does the Lord Require of You?”
(The children are dismissed to Children’s Church)

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 10:1-11

Amos 5:21-24

I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

**Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them;
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.**

Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
**But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an everflowing stream.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Micah 6:6-8

SERMON “Setting the Bar”

*HYMN 343 “Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”
**Called as partners in Christ’s service,
Called to ministries of grace,
We respond with deep commitment**

**Fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing,
Side by side and friend with friend,
Equal partners in our caring
To fulfill God's chosen end.**

**Christ's example, Christ's inspiring,
Christ's clear call to work and worth,
Let us follow, never faltering,
Reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer, poorer,
All God's people, young and old,
Blending human skills together
Gracious gifts from God unfold.**

**Thus new patterns for Christ's mission,
In a small or global sense,
Help us bear each other's burdens,
Breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision,
Words of challenge, said with care,
Bring new power and strength for action,
Make us colleagues, free and fair.**

**So God grant us for tomorrow
Ways to order human life
That surround each person's sorrow
With a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living,
Our compassion to increase,
Messengers of faith, thus giving
Hope and confidence and peace.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Simple Gifts" Cindy Berry

Cover Art: "Let Justice Roll Down Like Waters." Fountains in a larger intallation titled "Revelation," a memorial to Martin Luther King. The project was a collaboration of Houston Conwill, poet Estella Conwill Majoza and architect Joseph DePace. Christian Barrette, photographer. Conwill, Houston, 1947-2016. Let Justice Roll Down Like Waters, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.
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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

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

FRIDAY

- ❖ Church Office Closed for Independence Day

NEXT SUNDAY

- ❖ Jazz 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. BOB MOLSBERY to our pulpit this morning. Bob is a retired UCC minister and a member of our congregation. The Rev. Bill Lovin is on sabbatical during the month of June. Bill will be back at the church on Tuesday, July 1.

PLEASE NOTE: The church office will be closed on Friday, July 4, in celebration of Independence Day. Any items for the July 6 bulletin should be sent to the office by Wednesday, July 2.

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!

JULY 6—STREETS CLOSED DURING IOWA CITY JAZZ FESTIVAL: Summer brings great festivals to Iowa City—and closes off some of the streets! Sunday, July 6, is the final day of the Iowa City Jazz Festival. Clinton Street will be closed between College and Jefferson Streets. Access to the church will be available from Jefferson Street and from Clinton Street coming from the north. Join us for worship at 10:15 a.m., but plan on a slightly longer walk.

WOMEN'S READING GROUP "FIELD TRIP": The Women's Reading Group field trip to the Hardin Medical Library John Martin Rare Book Room will be July 8, 10:00-12:00; you won't have to stay the entire time. If you'd like to attend, let Donna Hirst know. Spouses and significant others are welcome. The curator will be displaying: Hildegard von Bingen's Medicine book, a table of medieval manuscript facsimiles, a couple of original edition Books of Hours will be brought over from the Main Library, the Nuremberg Chronicle, and maybe others items.

There is a very small parking lot at the base of the Hardin Library; take the elevator to the fourth floor. There's one handicapped spot. Parking is available in the Newton Rd ramp opposite the Med School, and it's a short walk down the hill to the Hardin Library. If you are able to attend, you will be blown away.

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

BOOK TALKS BY CONGREGATIONAL UCC AUTHORS: On Sunday, July 20, following the worship service and fellowship, Allan Hogue and Randee Fieselmann will present book talks about their recently published books: *Farming on the Oxbow* and *The Union First: Community and Commitment in the First Iowa Infantry*. They will provide "small bites" and beverages, location to be announced. If you are interested in attending, and to help with the food order, please sign up on the sheet in Rockwell Hall or RSVP to: Allan Hogue allanhogue@verizon.net or Randee Fieselmann randeegr@gmail.com

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO participated in last weekend's Pride celebration. It was truly a family celebration involving at least 40 members and their families with three generation participants, members and non-member friends, crafty creation of giveaways, borrowed equipment, planning and creating, canopy raising, truck loading—spanning age groups and sharing talents. A bright and encouraging multi-colored celebration that was met with appreciation and enthusiasm by those who saw the Congregational UCCIC family sharing its welcoming Christian message and having fun on the hottest day of the year.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO contributed to the Strengthen the Church congregational offering. We received a total of \$1205 that will be put to good use!

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!

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.