



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

WORSHIP FOR JULY 13, 2025  
FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

The Lord is a virgin forest  
The Lord is a forest ranger  
The Lord is a meal for the poorest of the poor  
A welcome door to the stranger  
Paul Simon

PRELUDE “Cantabile” Jacques Lemmens

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dianne Atkins, Liturgist

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

The Spirit of the living God breathes upon us,  
and on all that is finite and fragile.

**God is our refuge and our strength,  
a help in times of trouble.**

Be strong and let your heart take courage.

**In the company of God  
and in this company of God's people,  
let us take heart.  
Let us worship God.**

**\*HYMN        "The Summer Days Are Come Again"        Samuel Longfellow**

**The summer days are come again;  
Once more the glad earth yields  
Its golden wealth of ripening grain,  
And breath of clover fields,  
And deepening shade of summer woods,  
And glow of summer air,  
And winging thoughts, and happy moods  
Of love and joy and prayer.**

**The summer days are come again;  
The birds are on the wing;  
God's praises, in their loving strain,  
Unconsciously they sing.  
We know God gives us all the good  
That does our cup o'erbrim;  
For summer joy in field and wood  
We lift our joyful hymn.**

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

**Creator of our lives, source and destiny of all that is, we come to you in partial awareness of the hallowed nature of each human life, and in need of your reviving Spirit for comfort and grace. In the beauty of this place set aside, in the solemn reverence of time set apart to hear your Word, in the strength of mutual care, in the silence and in the songs which attend your redeeming power, we come to worship and to wait for you.**

**May every bitter thought and each nagging worry about what we have done and what we have failed to do be washed out into the ebbing sea of your boundless mercy. Let every noble thought and every impulse of love be stirred anew by the breath of your Spirit. So lead us by your gentle inspiration to sense in each moment eternal depths, immeasurable goodness and the possibilities of tomorrow. Amen.**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#292, vs. 3)**

**O God from whose unfathomed law the year in beauty flows,  
yourself the splendid vision seen in crystal and in rose,  
The passing days with grace declare, and passing nights proclaim,  
In ever-changing words of light, the wonder of your name.**

SOLO            “Your Love Is My Song”  
                 Rachel Burchett

#### SERVICE OF GIVING

Invitation

Offertory        “To a Wild Rose,” Op. 51, No. 1        Edward MacDowell

\*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        Exodus 3:1-15

#### PSALM 27

The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
whom then shall I fear?

**the Lord is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom then shall I be afraid?**

Though an army should encamp against me,  
yet my heart shall not be afraid;

**and though war should rise up against me,  
yet will I put my trust in the Lord.**

For in the time of trouble you, O God, will give me shelter;  
you will hide me under the cover of your tent  
and set me high upon a rock.

**Even now you lift up my head  
above my enemies round about me.**

Therefore, I will offer in in your dwelling  
a sacrifice of great gladness.

I will sing and make music to you, O Lord.

**Hear my voice, O Lord, when I call;  
have mercy on me and answer me.**

Do not hide your face from me,  
or reject your servant in anger.

**You who have been my help:  
do not cast me off or forsake me, O God of my salvation.**

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord  
in the land of the living.

**Wait for the Lord, be strong and let your heart take courage;  
wait, I say, for the Lord.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON      John 14:1-6a

SERMON      “Psalms of the Becoming God”

\*HYMN 263    “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.**

**Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;  
Thy justice, like mountains, high soaring above  
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small;  
In all life Thou livest, the true life of all;  
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,  
And wither and perish; but naught changeth Thee.**

**Thou reignest in glory, Thou rulest in light,  
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;  
All praise we would render; O help us to see  
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee!**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE    “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”      John Carter

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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

❖ Listening Session in Rockwood Hall	9:50 am
Worship Service	10:15 am
Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall	After Worship

MONDAY

❖ Serving at Hope Lodge	6:00 pm
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|  | <b>TUESDAY</b>     |
| ❖ Membership Board                     | 5:30 pm            |
| Trustees                               | 7:00 pm            |
|  | <b>THURSDAY</b>    |
| ❖ Women's Lunch at Thai Spice          | 11:45 am           |
|  | <b>SATURDAY</b>    |
| ❖ Men's Breakfast at Waterfront Hy-Vee | 8:00 am            |
| Women's Reading Group                  | 10:00 am           |
|  | <b>NEXT SUNDAY</b> |
| ❖ Listening Session in Rockwood Hall   | 9:50 am            |
| Worship Service                        | 10:15 am           |
| Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall           | After Worship      |
| Book Talks                             | 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.

**THIS MORNING BILL LOVIN IS BEGINNING A SERMON SERIES FROM THE PSALMS**, using Paul Simon's *Seven Psalms* as a starting point. You are invited to join Bill in Rockwood Hall at 9:50 am each Sunday to hear the song that inspires that Sunday's sermon. Today: "The Lord." Next Sunday: "Love Is Like a Braid."

**HELP AT HOPE LODGE THIS MONTH:** Our next Hope Lodge dinner will be tomorrow, 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.

**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](mailto:allanhogue@verizon.net) or Randee Fieselmann [randeegrc@gmail.com](mailto:randeegrc@gmail.com)

**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](mailto: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.