



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

WORSHIP FOR JULY 20, 2025  
SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Love is like a braid, some say  
And I, I don't disbelieve it  
Paul Simon

PRELUDE "Prelude in C Major," Op. 48, No. 1

Josef Renner

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Andy Bertolatus, Liturgist

\*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.

**Together, let us worship God.**

**\*HYMN 475                    “O That I Had a Thousand Voices”**

**O that I had a thousand voices  
To praise my God with thousand tongues!  
My heart, which in the Lord rejoices,  
Would then proclaim in grateful songs  
To all, wherever I might be,  
What great things God has done for me.**

**O all you powers that God implanted,  
Arise, keep silence now no more;  
Put forth the strength that God has granted!  
Your noblest work is to adore.  
O soul and body, join to raise  
With heartfelt joy our Maker’s praise.**

**You forest leaves so green and tender  
That dance for joy in summer air,  
You meadow grasses, bright and slender,  
You flowers so fragrant and so fair,  
You live to show God’s praise alone.  
Join me to make God’s glory known.**

**All creatures that have breath and motion,  
That throng the earth, the sea, the sky,  
Come share with me my heart’s devotion,  
Help me to sing God’s praises high!  
My utmost powers can never quite  
Declare the wonders of God’s might!**

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

**God of all times and places, we find you in the heat of the midday and the cool of the evening. We find you in the quiet of the country and in the music of the city. Help us to be aware that you are with us in every time, and in every place.**

**We come before you remembering the week now past and anticipating the days to come:  
when we are weary and worried, revive us with your Spirit;  
when we are in despair about our world or our lives, renew our hope and sustain us with your grace.**

**Lift our hearts, heal our souls, and send us out newly strengthened to do your work in the world. Amen.**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (Tune: #475)**

**If you but trust in God to guide you,  
with hopeful heart through all your ways,  
you will find strength, with God beside you,  
to bear the worst of evil days;  
Who trusts in God's unchanging love  
builds on the rock that cannot move.**

**Sing, pray, and swerve not from God's ways,  
but do your part in conscience true;  
Trust the rich promises of grace,  
so shall they be fulfilled in you;  
God hears the call of those in need,  
the souls that trust in God indeed.**

SOLO            "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot"  
Robert Traer

#### 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        "O That I Had a Thousand Voices"    Michael Burkhardt

\*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        Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

#### PSALM 119:57-64

The Lord is my portion;

I promise to keep your words.

**I implore your favor with all my heart;  
be gracious to me according to your promise.**

When I think of your ways,  
I turn my feet to your decrees;

**I hurry and do not delay  
to keep your commandments.**

Though the cords of the wicked ensnare me,  
I do not forget your law.

**At midnight I rise to praise you,  
because of your righteous ordinances.**

I am a companion of all who fear you,  
of those who keep your precepts.

**The earth, O Lord, is full of your steadfast love;  
teach me your statutes.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON      Romans 8:35-39

SERMON      Seven Psalms, #2: "Love Psalms and Love Songs"

\*HYMN 335      "Though I May Speak"

**Though I may speak with bravest fire,  
and have the gift of all inspire,  
and have not love, my words are vain,  
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.**

**Though I may give all I possess,  
and striving so my love profess,  
but not be given by love within,  
the profit soon turns strangely thin.**

**Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,  
our spirits long to be made whole.  
Let inward love guide every deed;  
by this we worship, and are freed.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE    "O That I Had a Thousand Voices," Op. 135a, No. 19      Max Reger

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

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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
- Book Talks After Worship

#### TUESDAY

- ❖ Church Council 7:00 pm

#### NEXT SUNDAY

- ❖ Listening Session in Rockwood Hall 9:50 am
- 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.

**IN JULY AND AUGUST, BILL LOVIN IS PREACHING 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: "Love Is Like a Braid." Next Sunday: "My Professional Opinion."

**BOOK TALKS BY CONGREGATIONAL UCC AUTHORS:** After worship this morning, 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.

**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!

**THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED** with the Hope Lodge dinner on July 14: Dianne Atkins, Ann Molsberry, Rebecca Weatherford, Diane Dahl McCoy, Julie Wittig, Jane Kinney, Linda Muston, Marsha Lowe, Sue and Chuck Dayton. The next Hope Lodge dinner will be held in September.

**CARBON OFFSET:** Have you ever wanted to compensate for CO2 emissions from a flight or other carbon intensive activity? Carbon offsets are a recognized way to make an activity carbon neutral. Carbon offsets are also often viewed with skepticism due to concerns about whether the money given is truly decreasing carbon emissions and whether the action would have happened without the donation.

Those concerns can be assuaged with a donation to put solar arrays on Habitat for Humanity homes. The homeowners do not have the resources to make an upfront investment in a solar array and once installed the system is likely to stay in place for the lifetime of the panels. In addition to reducing CO2 emissions the donor would be helping a low income Iowa family with their energy bills.

With our energy mix in Iowa, the cost of a solar array, and production from solar panels over 25 years; the cost per kilogram CO<sub>2</sub> reduced for solar panels is 22 cents per kilogram CO<sub>2</sub>. (Based on Iowa's current energy mix.) This means a single seat flight from New York to Los Angeles could be offset for a 68 dollar contribution to the Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity solar fund (307 kg CO<sub>2</sub> emitted).

Please contact Jamie McCoy or see the bulletin board in Rockwood Hall for more information.

**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.