

what do YOU expect?

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

WORSHIP FOR JULY 23, 2023
EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

“Ambiguity does not relieve one of the necessity for decision.”
Douglas R.A. Hare

PRELUDE “It Is Well with My Soul” arr. Cindy Berry

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Mary Lea Kruse, Liturgist

* CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalms 113 & 92)
Blessed be the name of God
from this time on and forevermore.

**From the rising of the sun to its setting
the name of God is to be praised.**

It is good to give thanks to God,
to sing praises to your name, O Most High;
**to declare your steadfast love in the morning,
and your faithfulness by night.**

* HYMN 483 "Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above"

**Sing praise to God who reigns above,
the God of all creation,
the God of power, the God of love,
the God of our salvation.
With healing balm my soul is filled
and every faithless murmur stilled:
To God all praise and glory!**

**What God's almighty power hath made
God's gracious mercy keepeth;
By morning glow or evening shade
God's watchful eye ne'er sleepeth;
Within the kingdom of God's might,
Lo! all is just and all is right:
To God all praise and glory!**

**The Lord is never far away,
but through all grief distressing,
an ever present help and stay,
our peace and joy and blessing.
As with a mother's tender hand,
God gently leads the chosen band:
To God all praise and glory!**

**Thus all my gladsome way along,
I sing aloud thy praises,
that all may hear the grateful song
my voice unwearied raises.
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart,
both soul and body bear your part:
To God all praise and glory!**

*** OPENING PRAYER (attributed to St. Augustine)**

God of life, there are many days when the burdens we carry are heavy on our shoulders and weigh us down, when the road seems dreary and endless, the skies gray and threatening, when our lives have no music in them, and our hearts are lonely, and our souls have lost their courage. Flood the path with light; turn our eyes to where the skies are full of promise; tune our hearts to brave music; give us a sense of community with the saints of every age; and so quicken our spirits that we may be able to encourage the souls of those who journey with us on the road of life, to your honor and glory. Amen.

*** CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#7, vs. 4)**

**O wounded hands of Jesus, build In us your new creation;
Our pride is dust, our vaunt is stilled, We wait Your revelation.
O Love that triumphs over loss, We bring our hearts before Your cross;
Come, finish your salvation.**

SOLO "It Is Well with My Soul"
 Jo Benda

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 "Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above" Setting by Timothy Albrecht

*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

(Children are dismissed to Children's Church)

SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 61:1-4

PSALM 146:5-10

Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help!

whose hope is in the Lord their God;

**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps faith forever;**

who gives justice to those who are oppressed,

and food to those who hunger.

**The Lord sets the prisoners free;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind;**

the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

the Lord loves the righteous and cares for the stranger;

**the Lord sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.**

[Unison]

**The Lord shall reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Hallelujah!**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 11:1-11

SERMON “Great Expectations”

* HYMN 332 “Live into Hope”

**Live into hope of captives freed,
of sight regained, the end of greed.
The oppressed shall be the first to see
the year of God's own jubilee!**

**Live into hope! The blind shall see
with insight and with clarity,
removing shades of pride and fear,
a vision of our God brought near.**

**Live into hope of liberty,
the right to speak, the right to be,
the right to have one's daily bread,
to hear God's word and thus be fed.**

**Live into hope of captives freed
from chains of fear or want or greed.
God now proclaims our full release
to faith and hope and joy and peace.**

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Live into Hope” Setting by Timothy Albrecht

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Minister:	The Rev. Bill Lovin
Director of Children’s Programs:	The Rev. Ann Molsberry
Organist:	Bill Crouch
Choir Director	Chris Nakielski
Children’s Choir Director	Majesty Constable
Office Manager	Jenn Harden

TODAY

❖	Worship Service	10:15 am
	Children’s Church	During Worship
	Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall	After Worship

NEXT SUNDAY

❖	Worship Service	10:15 am
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Children's Church
Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall

During Worship
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. Masks are welcome.

BE A PART OF WELCOMING STUDENTS IN AUGUST: When the UI Fall Semester begins in late August, Congregational UCC will once again welcome the new and returning students. The exact dates and details are still in the works, but this will be a new and reimagined event designed to let students know who we are, what we value, and how they might find a spiritual home here while studying at the University. More information will be available in late July and early August. In the meantime, if you have suggestions or would like to help with the planning, please talk with Martha Ann Crawford, Allan Hogue, or Bill Lovin.

A MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR MARGE HOPPIN will be held in the sanctuary at 3:30 on Tuesday, August 15. A visitation time will begin at 2:30 and a reception in Rockwood Hall will follow the service. Marge died on Monday, July 17.

THE JOHNSON COUNTY INTERFAITH COALITION (JCIC) IS HAVING A FAITH IN ACTION FRIEND AND FUNDRAISER on September 7, 5:30-8:00 at the Unitarian Universalist Society. Bea Hicks and Donna Hirst are co-chairs of the event. Our church is purchasing a table for 10. If you'd like to attend, please call the church office at 337-4301 or send a note to Jenn Harden at uccicadmin@uccic.org and copy Donna at donna-hirst@uiowa.edu

DO YOU HAVE A CHURCH KEY? We have recently made new keys and are working at getting a better list of people who have keys. If you have a key to the church, please contact Trustee Chairperson, Kevin Richards, at (608) 807-7195 or at kdrichards1958@gmail.com. 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 or Trustee Chairperson, Kevin Richards, know right away. You can reach Kevin at (608) 807-7195 or at kdrichards1958@gmail.com. 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.
information.