



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

WORSHIP FOR JULY 27, 2025  
SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Good morning, Mr. Indignation  
Paul Simon

PRELUDE “Cantabile,” Op. 41, No. 4 Alexandre Guilmant

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Tom Mittman, Liturgist

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Let us bring our songs and our sighs.

Let us find peace, renewal, and steady hearts.

**With mind and soul, body and spirit  
we will seek God while God may be found  
and call upon God, who is near.**

**[Unison]**

**Let us worship God.**

**\*HYMN (insert) “Praise to the Living God” (vs. 1, 3 &4)**

**Praise to the living God, the God of love and light,  
Whose word brought forth the myriad suns and set the worlds in flight;  
Whose infinite design, which we but dimly see,  
Pervades all nature, making all a cosmic unity.**

**Praise to the living God, who knows our joy and pain,  
Who shares with us our common life, the sacred and profane.**

**God toils where'er we toil, in home and mart and mill;  
And deep within the human heart God leads us forward still.**

**Praise to the living God, around, within, above,  
Beyond the grasp of human mind but, whom we know as love.  
In these tumultuous days, so full of hope and strife,  
May we bear witness to the Way, O Source and Goal of life.**

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

**Living God, we seek your presence now.  
Our faith cannot fully grasp you, yet in you we live and move and have our being.  
Our way ahead into this week is filled with questions, but we trust that we go through these  
days kept in your gracious care.  
Show us how to ground our daily lives in an understanding of your goodness.  
Open our eyes to see your presence in the simple glories of everyday things.  
Deepen our relationships with other people.  
As we worship here together, enlarge our imaginations, release us from indifference, and  
increase our strength for the days ahead.  
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (Tune: #207—MERLE'S TUNE)**

**We yearn, O Christ, for wholeness and for your healing touch;  
too long have we felt helpless; our burdens seemed too much.  
Forgetting all pretenses we make our pleadings heard,  
in hope and expectation await your gracious word.**

**We long to have companions who travel by our side,  
strong friends to call and answer with whom we are allied;  
as we lift up each other when struggles lay us low,  
community will flourish; our faith and caring grow.**

**We need your living presence, O Christ of Galilee,  
a presence that revives us and sets our spirits free.  
No longer are we fearful, your love pervades each place.  
Empower us with courage to claim your healing grace.**

**ANTHEM      "How Great Thou Art"      arr, Dan Forest  
Betsy Henson, Loralyn Hogue, Claire Ma, Barb Sisley, Linda Svalstad, Marie Von  
Behren,, Cheryl Weatherford,, Rebecca Weatherford**

**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      “Adagio,” Op. 39, No. 1      Alexandre Guilmant

\*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      Jeremiah 20:7-13

#### PSALM 55

Hear my prayer, O God;  
do not hide yourself from my petition.

**Listen to me and answer me;  
I have no peace, because of my cares.**

I am shaken by the noise of the enemy  
and by the pressure of the wicked;  
**My heart quakes within me,  
and the terrors of death have fallen upon me.**

Fear and trembling have come over me,  
and horror overwhelms me.  
**And I said, “Oh, that I had wings like a dove!  
I would fly away and be at rest.**

I would flee to a far-off place  
and make my lodging in the wilderness.  
**I would hasten to escape  
from the stormy wind and tempest.”**

But I will call upon God,  
and the Lord will deliver me.  
**In the evening, in the morning, and at noonday,  
I will complain and lament,  
and the Lord will hear my voice.**

God will bring me safely back from the battle waged against me;  
for there are many who fight me.

**Cast your burden upon the Lord,  
who will sustain you;  
the Lord will never let the righteous stumble**

SCRIPTURE LESSON      Luke 9:37-43a

SERMON      Seven Psalms, #3: "Psalms for the Indignant"

\*HYMN 434      "Today We Are All Called to Be Disciples" (vs. 1, 3, & 4)

**Today we all are called to be  
disciples of the Lord,  
to help to set the captive free,  
make plowshare out of sword,  
to feed the hungry, quench their thirst,  
make love and peace our fast,  
to serve the poor and homeless first,  
our ease and comfort last.**

**Pray justice may come rolling down  
as in a mighty stream,  
with righteousness in field and town  
to cleanse us and redeem.  
For God is longing to restore  
an earth where conflicts cease,  
a world that was created for  
a harmony of peace.**

**May we in service to our God  
act out the living word,  
and walk the road the saints have trod  
till all have seen and heard.  
As stewards of the earth may we  
give thanks in one accord  
to God who calls us all to be  
disciples of the Lord.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE    "March," Op. 41, No. 5      Alexandre Guilmant

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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  
Office Manager

Rachel Burchett  
Jenn Harden

TODAY

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

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.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Jenn Harden, our Office Manager, will be on vacation this coming week, July 28-August 1. Jenn will be back in the office on Monday, August 4.

Bill Lovin will be working this coming week. He will be on vacation from Sunday, August 3-Sunday, August 10. The Rev. Libby Conely, an ordained Mennonite minister who worships with us will be preaching on August 3 & 10.

Because of this vacation schedule, the August newsletter will not be published until early in the month.

**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: "My Professional Opinion."

**THE WOMEN'S READING GROUP** will meet August 9 at 10 a.m. to discuss "In the Garden of Delights, The Book of the Bride" and the last chapter of *In the Sanctuary of Women*. All are welcome!

**HELP PLAN VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:** Join us upstairs in the Sunday School room *after worship on Sunday, August 3* for a Vacation Bible School planning meeting! We'll introduce this year's theme, share song and activity ideas, and explore ways *you* can be part of creating a joyful VBS experience. All ages and skill sets welcome—come see where you might fit in!

**ART EXHIBIT:** Hope Spragg currently has artwork on display at Press Coffee in Iowa City. Come celebrate her creative work at a closing reception on Thursday, July 31, from 6–8 PM at Press (1120 N. Dodge St., across from Hy-Vee). All are welcome—bring a friend and enjoy an evening of art and community!

**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!

**CARBON OFFSET HELPS HABITAT FOR HUMANITY:** 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 CO2 reduced for solar panels is 22 cents per kilogram CO2. (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 CO2 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.