



“Rest in God” Liz Valentine

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

WORSHIP FOR JULY 30, 2023  
NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

“We will find rest for carrying the burden of the gospel by living out the unique mission to which Jesus calls each of us.”

Emilie Townes

PRELUDE

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

John Carter

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tina Koepnick, Liturgist

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

Rejoice, people of God!

Celebrate the life within you,

and Christ's presence in your midst!

**Our eyes shall be opened!  
The present will have new meaning,  
and the future will be bright with hope.**

Rejoice, people of God!

Bow your heads before the One  
who is our wisdom and our strength.

**We place ourselves before our God.  
that we may be touched and renewed  
by the power of God's Spirit.**

\* HYMN 464 "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

**Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,  
God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee,  
Opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;  
Drive the dark of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
Fill us with the light of day!**

**All Thy works with joy surround Thee,  
Earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,  
Stars and angels sing around Thee,  
Center of unbroken praise;  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
Flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird and flowing fountain  
Call us to rejoice in Thee.**

**Mortals, join the happy chorus,  
Which the morning stars began;  
Love divine is reigning o'er us,  
Joining all in heaven's plan.  
Ever singing, march we onward,  
Victors in the midst of strife;  
Joyful music leads us sunward  
In the triumph song of life.**

\* OPENING PRAYER

**O God, the source of our being and the goal of our longing:  
the whole earth is full of your glory and all that has life is sustained by you.  
We rejoice that you have made us to reflect your image and to care for creation.  
Give us courage to face our failure and limitations, and to overcome our helplessness.  
Take the things that we have destroyed.**

**Take the brokenness of our living,  
Gather around us your goodness,  
and renew us and the whole creation with your saving grace; through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

\* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#464)

**Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,  
Wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!  
Source of grace and fount of blessing, all who live in joy are thine;  
Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.**

DUET            “*Ich Jauchze, Ich Lache*” (I Sing for Joy, I Laugh)  
Marie Von Behren and Teresa Treat

I'm laughing and shouting for joy,  
Away now with sorrow and crying, for evil is gone.  
The power of evil is vanished away.  
Forever rejoicing with thanks we pray.

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        “*Fughetta*,” BWV 901 J.S. Bach

\*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 40:21-31

PSALM 102:1-12

Lord, hear my prayer, and let my cry come before you;  
hide not your face from me in the day of my trouble.

**Incline your ear to me;**

**when I call, make haste to answer me,**  
for my days drift away like smoke,  
and my bones are hot as burning coals.

**My heart is smitten like grass and withered,  
so that I forget to eat my bread.**

Because of the voice of my groaning  
I am but skin and bones.

**I have become like a vulture in the wilderness,  
like an owl among the ruins.**

I lie awake and groan;  
I am like a sparrow, lonely on a house-top.

**My enemies revile me all day long,  
and those who scoff at me have taken an oath against me.**

For I have eaten ashes for bread  
and mingled my drink with weeping.

Because of your indignation and wrath  
**you have lifted me up and thrown me away.**

My days pass away like a shadow,  
and I wither like the grass.

**But you, O Lord, endure forever,  
and your name from age to age**

SCRIPTURE LESSON      Matthew 11:28-30

SERMON      “Rest and Renewal”

\* HYMN 419      “How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord”

**How clear is our vocation, Lord,  
When once we heed Your call:  
To live according to Your word,  
And daily learn, refreshed, restored,  
That You are Lord of all  
And will not let us fall.**

**But if, forgetful, we should find  
Your yoke is hard to bear,  
If worldly pressures fray the mind  
And love itself cannot unwind  
Its tangled skein of care:  
Our inward life repair.**

**We mark Your saints, how they became  
In hindrances more sure,  
Whose joyful virtues put to shame**

**The casual way we wear Your name,  
And by our faults obscure  
Your power to cleanse and cure.**

**In what You give us, Lord, to do,  
Together or alone,  
In old routines or ventures new,  
May we not cease to look to You--  
The cross You hung upon--  
All You endeavored done.**

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Hymn to Joy”

Michael Burkhardt

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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

TUESDAY

❖	Diaconate	7:00 p.m.
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NEXT SUNDAY

❖	Worship Service--Communion	10:15 am
	Children’s Church	During Worship
	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. Masks are welcome.

**PLEASE NOTE: THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED THIS COMING WEEK.** Work will be done to replace our furnaces and air conditioning units. Bill Lovin will be in occasionally and can be reached by phone or email.

**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.

**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. If you have suggestions or would like to help with the planning, please talk with Martha Ann Crawford, Allan Hogue, Ben Copeland or Bill Lovin.

**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](mailto:uccicadmin@uccic.org) and copy Donna at [donna-hirst@uiowa.edu](mailto:donna-hirst@uiowa.edu)

**RUTH AND KEN KUNTZ AND THEIR FAMILY WISH TO THANK FRIENDS AT CUCC** for attending and/or sending greetings for Ruth's 90th birthday celebration. Thank you to the church for giving Ruth the idea of asking guests to consider bringing a food item instead of cards and other gifts. The response was overwhelming - 234 pounds of food and other items! We are feeling very blessed.

**RIVERSIDE THEATER PRESENTS EVERYBODY.** Thursdays-Saturdays at 7:30 pm and Sunday afternoons at 2 pm through August 6 in the brand new icy cool comfort of the new theatre at 119 E College St on the Ped Mall. The play explores some of the theological and human questions we engage on Sunday mornings and does so with grace, wit, and thoughtfulness.

The Pulitzer Board's 2018 announcement of drama finalists calls it "a contemporary take on a classic morality play [*Everyman*] that offers a playful and colloquial examination of the human condition in the face of mortality." The play, written by MacArthur Fellow Brandon Jacob-Jenkins takes great risks in that five of the actors enter a raffle on stage during the play to learn who will be playing which part each night. More than a gimmick, this is meant to dramatize the risks, opportunities and seeming randomness in life.

**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](mailto: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 [kd Richards1958@gmail.com](mailto:kd Richards1958@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.