



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

WORSHIP FOR JULY 6, 2025
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

We, the people, must redeem
The land, the mines, the plants, the rivers.
The mountains and the endless plain—
All, all the stretch of these great green states—
And make America again!

Langston Hughes

Today is a communion Sunday. If you are joining us online, before the worship service, you are invited to assemble what you will eat and what you will drink. It can be bread and grape juice or wine or as simple as a cracker or rice cake and water for use in our worship.

PRELUDE “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sue Dayton, Liturgist

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

On this day, we come before God.

**The earth belongs to God,
and all the nations are God's people.**

We come to seek the goodness of God,
**whose justice is like a rock
and whose mercy is like pure flowing water,**

**[Unison]
that together in this place
we might recall God's ways.
Let us worship God.**

***HYMN 564 "O Beautiful for Spacious Skies"**

(Please sing the suggested alternate, "servanthood.")

**O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with servanthood
From sea to shining sea!**

**O beautiful for pilgrim feet,
Whose stern, impassioned stress
A thoroughfare for freedom beat
Across the wilderness!
America! America!
God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control,
Thy liberty in law!**

**O beautiful for heroes proved
In liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved,
And mercy more than life!
America! America!
May God thy gold refine
Till all success be nobleness
And every gain divine.**

**O beautiful for patriot dream
That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam,**

**Undimmed by human tears!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee
And crown thy good with servanthood
From sea to shining sea!**

***OPENING PRAYER**

O God, we seek your presence among us. Let us find again the beauty you have created in our land and in all the people who reside in it. Help us to remember you call us to pursue fairness and justice in our dealings with one another. When compassion and mercy are impeded, may we rely on your inventive power to make a way to break through. Let us be wise in our decisions; allow us to choose the moves and turns we must take to be part of what you desire for this land and for the earth and all its inhabitants. Amen.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#561, vs. 3 & 4)**

**Let music swell the breeze, and ring from all the trees
sweet freedom's song:
let mortal tongues awake; let all that breathe partake;
let rocks their silence break; the sound prolong.**

**Our gracious God, to thee, author of liberty,
to thee we sing:
long may our land be bright with freedom's holy light;
protect us by thy might, great God we sing.**

ANTHEM "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

SERVICE OF GIVING

Invitation

Offertory

***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**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Proverbs 11:14

PSALM 33:8-22

**Let all who dwell in the world stand in reverence of God.
For the Lord spoke, and it came to pass;
the Lord commanded, and it stood fast.**

**The Lord brings the will of the nations to naught
and thwarts the designs of the peoples.**

But the Lord's will stands fast forever,

and the designs of the Lord's heart from age to age.

Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord!

happy the people you have chosen to be your own!

O Lord, you look down from heaven

and behold all the people in the world

From where you sit enthroned you turn your gaze

on all who dwell on the earth.

You fashion all the hearts of them

and understand all their works.

There is no ruler that can be saved by a mighty army;

a warrior is not delivered by great strength.

The horse is a vain hope for deliverance;

for all its strength it cannot save.

Behold, your eye, O Lord, is upon those who fear you,

on those who wait upon your love,

to pluck their lives from death,

and to feed them in time of famine.

Our soul waits for you, O Lord;

you are our help and our shield.

Indeed, our heart rejoices in you,

for in your holy name we put our trust.

Let your loving-kindness, O Lord, be upon us,

as we have put our trust in you.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Hebrews 11:1-3

SERMON “Open-eyed Patriotism”

THE LORD’S SUPPER

INVITATION

HYMN 513 “Let Us Break Bread Together”

Let us break bread together on our knees; (on our knees;)

Let us break bread together on our knees. (on our knees.)

When I fall on my knees,

With my face to the rising sun,

O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me.)

Let us drink wine together on our knees; (on our knees;)

Let us drink wine together on our knees. (on our knees.)

When I fall on my knees,

With my face to the rising sun,

O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me.)

**Let us praise God together on our knees; (on our knees;)
Let us praise God together on our knees. (on our knees.)
When I fall on my knees,
With my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me.)**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

REMEMBERING AND GIVING THANKS

Let us join together in prayer:

Pour out your Spirit

on us and on these gifts.

As we eat this bread, we remember that many are hungry.

As we share the cup together, we remember that many are thirsty.

May the day come soon when there may be food and water for all.

May the day come soon when justice and peace take the place of violence.

May the day come soon when your freedom may be known by all of creation.

Make us again into your body, loving, serving, and caring for the world. Amen.

We remember that on the night of his arrest...

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND SHARING OF BREAD AND CUP

(Communion will be served in the pews today. Please receive the bread or cup as they are offered to you by a deacon. Hold it until all have been served, and we will eat and drink together at the pastor's guidance. We serve grape juice, not wine. Gluten-free wafers are on the trays with the bread. In the Congregational United Church of Christ, we celebrate the Lord's Supper with openness and welcome. Everyone is invited to the table, regardless of church membership or denominational affiliation.)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**We give you thanks, O God, that in your own free gift of love you have reached out to us.
You have refreshed us at your table, touched our deepest needs, and called us to a life
shared in memory and hope. Send us forth with courage and joy in the name of Jesus
Christ, that we, too, may become bread and peace for one another and for the world.
Amen.**

*HYMN 563 "Lift Every Voice and Sing" James Weldon Johnson, J. Rosamond Johnson

Lift every voice and sing

'Til earth and heaven ring

Ring with the harmonies of Liberty

Let our rejoicing rise

High as the listening skies

Let it resound loud as the rolling sea

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us

Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us

**Facing the rising sun of our new day begun
Let us march on 'til victory is won**

**Stony the road we trod
Bitter the chastening rod
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died
Yet with a steady beat
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our parents sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered
Out from the gloomy past
'Til now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast**

**God of our weary years
God of our silent tears
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way
Thou who has by Thy might
Led us into the light
Keep us forever in the path, we pray
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee
Shadowed beneath Thy hand
May we forever stand
True to our God
True to our native land**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Bye, Bye Blues”

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

❖ Jazz Worship Service	TODAY
Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall	10:15 am
	After Worship

❖ Mission Board	TUESDAY
	7:00 pm

SATURDAY

- ❖ Tom Kinney Memorial Service 11:00 am
Visiting with family at 10:00; Reception follows in Rockwood Hall

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.

FOR OUR SUMMER JAZZ WORSHIP SERVICE THIS MORNING we welcome some good friends: Dick Watson, piano, Gary Palmer, bass, Craig Wood, drums, and Lynne Hart, saxophone.

WOMEN'S READING GROUP "FIELD TRIP": The Women's Reading Group field trip to the Hardin Medical Library John Martin Rare Book Room will be July 8, 10:00-12:00; you won't have to stay the entire time. If you'd like to attend, let Donna Hirst know. Spouses and significant others are welcome. The curator will be displaying: Hildegard von Bingen's Medicine book, a table of medieval manuscript facsimiles, a couple of original edition Books of Hours will be brought over from the Main Library, the Nuremberg Chronicle, and maybe others items.

There is a very small parking lot at the base of the Hardin Library; take the elevator to the fourth floor. There's one handicapped spot. Parking is available in the Newton Rd ramp opposite the Med School, and it's a short walk down the hill to the Hardin Library. If you are able to attend, you will be blown away.

HELP AT HOPE LODGE THIS MONTH: Our next Hope Lodge dinner will be 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 or Randee Fieselmann 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.

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.