



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

WORSHIP FOR AUGUST 17, 2025
TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

In sorrow a beautiful song
Lives in the heart and sings for all
Your forgiveness

Inside the digital mind
A homeless soul ponders the code
Of forgiveness
Paul Simon

PRELUDE “Moderato” Jonathan Battishill

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rachel Burchett, Liturgist

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Come, you who are looking for God in the world and in your life
and you who tremble at what you see or who have given up the search.

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

***HYMN 465 (vs. 1-3) “Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather”**

**Here, O Lord, your servants gather, hand we link with hand;
looking toward our Savior's cross, joined in love we stand.
As we seek the realm of God, we unite to pray:
Jesus, Savior, guide our steps, for you are the Way.**

**Many are the tongues we speak, scattered are the lands;
yet our hearts are one in God, one in love's demands.
While in darkness hope appears, calling age and youth:
Jesus, teacher, dwell with us, for you are the Truth.**

**Nature's secrets open wide, changes never cease;
where, O where, can weary souls find the source of peace?
Unto all those sore distressed, torn by endless strife:
Jesus, healer, bring your balm, for you are the Life.**

***OPENING PRAYER**

O God, we rejoice in the splendor of these summer days. In their beauty and joy, you provide for us and sustain us, even when events overshadow our lives. We give thanks that you have carried us through many difficult days and past many hard obstacles this summer long. Now the year begins to turn towards a new season when life will be busy and new tasks will be given to us. Holy Spirit, help us to keep in body and mind the energy of this time so we can cope with the transitions and unexpected turns our lives may take. Give us strength and endurance to face whatever challenges we may encounter in the coming days. Keep us open to the needs of others and remind us you call us to be present to the suffering in the world. Continue to be with us and guide us as we seek to live out our faith. Amen.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#465, vs. 4)**

**Grant, O God, an age renewed, Filled with deathless love;
Help us as we work and pray, Send us from above
Truth and courage, faith and power Needed in our strife
Jesus, Savior, be our way, Be our truth, our life.**

**DUET "The Gift of Love" arr. Hal Hopson
 Andrew Knapp, Marie Von Behren**

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” William Walond

*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 Isaiah 1:10-20

PSALM 130

Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord;
Lord, hear my voice;
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.

**If you, Lord, were to note what is done amiss,
O Lord, who could stand?**

For there is forgiveness with you;
therefore you shall be revered.

**I wait for you, O Lord; my soul waits for you;
in your word is my hope.**

My soul waits for the Lord,
more than those who watch by night long for the morning,
more than those who watch by night long for the morning.

**Wait in hope for the Lord,
for with the Lord there is mercy;**

[Unison]

**there is ample redemption with the Lord,
who shall redeem you from all your sins.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 18:9-14

*HYMN 181 “Come Sing to God”

**Come sing to God, O living saints,
Sing praises to God's name.
God's anger is not permanent,
God's love will never wane.
Though tears may tarry for the night
With sighs of deepest pain,
Yet joy comes with the morning sun,
A peace that is not vain.**

**In my success I felt secure.
How good You've been to me.**

**I said that this is my own work,
Ascribing all to me.
But when You turned aside Your face,
My life was filled with fears.
I begged for help, to You I cried
With loud and bitter tears.**

**What good is gained by my disgrace
What profit in defeat?
My grave cannot confess Your name,
Nor praise for You repeat.
Now hear, O Lord, my plaintive cry;
Be merciful to me.
Accept my longing heart's request
And from death set me free.**

**You change my grief to joy-filled dance,
My sorrows You destroy.
In faithfulness You hear my cry
And fill my life with joy.
And so to You my heart shall sing,
My voice Your goodness raise.
You are my God, forevermore,
My life shall sing Your praise.**

SERMON Seven Psalms #4: "The Code of Forgiveness"

***HYMN (insert) "Bless Now, O God, the Journey"**

**Bless now, O God, the journey
That all your people make
The path through noise and silence
The way of give and take
The trail is found in desert
And winds the mountain round
Then leads beside still waters
The road where faith is found**

**Bless sojourners and pilgrims
Who share this winding way
Your hope burns through the terrors
Your love sustains the day
We yearn for holy freedom
While often we are bound
Together we are seeking
The road where faith is found**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Preludium” William Herschell

Opening Prayer by Robin Thomas-Lovin. Used with permission.

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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

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

TUESDAY

❖ Membership Board	5:30 pm
Diaconate	7:00 pm
Trustees	7:00 pm

THURSDAY

❖ Women’s Lunch—Olive Garden	11:45 am
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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.

THIS MONTH, BILL LOVIN CONTINUES HIS 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: “Your Forgiveness.” Next Sunday: “Trail of Volcanoes.”

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO GAVE TO OUR SPECIAL OFFERING DURING WORSHIP ON SUNDAY, JULY 27. We received over \$3,000 to support two local children (both U.S. citizens) who have been affected by the recent surge in detaining and deportation.

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!

THANK YOU TO THE MANY VOLUNTEERS WHO HELPED WITH "MAKEOVER WEEK" in our upstairs classrooms! We are excited to use our refreshed spaces for our children and youth programs.

SUMMER CHILDREN'S CHURCH CAMP IS THIS WEEK, Monday - Wednesday, 8 AM-11 AM! The theme is "Sewing the Seeds of Social Justice," we will explore integrating Jesus's message of love and kindness begins with ourselves and grows into helping others. There will be breakfast, music, storytelling, games, art and yoga. All are invited to join us Wednesday at 10 AM for a neighborhood community clean up!

CAN YOU SUPPORT OUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH BY PROVIDING BREAKFAST ONCE THIS SEMESTER DURING SUNDAY SCHOOL? They love it and parents appreciate one less thing to worry about on a Sunday morning. Instructions: Please provide 12 servings that can be shared or cut into more, if needed. Bring to kitchen by 9 AM or place in freezer/refrigerator in advance labeled "CE Sunday School". We ask that you consider no peanut, low (not no) sugar and not individually wrapped options. Sign-up is in Rockwood Hall.

READY, SET, SHINE! SUNDAY is September 7! Christian education will celebrate our "back-to-Sunday School" with a combined breakfast, games and arts and crafts at 9:15. Preschool-high schoolers will meet their teachers and explore their refreshed classrooms!

WELCOME STUDENTS THIS MONTH: When the UI Fall Semester begins on Monday, August 25, Congregational UCC will welcome the new and returning students. This is a great way 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 Bill Lovin.

HOPE LODGE: Our next Hope Lodge dinner will be Monday, September 15. Dinner will be served at 6:00 pm. If you would like to contribute food, see the signup sheet posted in Rockwood Hall or talk to Sue Dayton.

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.

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.

Bless Now, O God, the Journey

1. Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,
 2. Bless all of us, your pil - grims, who share this wind - ing way,
 3. Di - vine E - ter - nal Lov - er, you meet us on the road.

the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.
 whose hope burns through the ter - rors, whose love sus - tains the day.
 We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow.

The trail is found in des - ert, and winds the moun - tain round,
 We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound.
 But wait - ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.

then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.
 To - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.
 Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

WORDS: Sylvia Dunstan, 1989, alt.
 MUSIC: Swedish folk tune; harm. Lahrae Knatterud, 1983, adapt.

BRED DINA VIDA VINGAR
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