



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

WORSHIP FOR AUGUST 18, 2024  
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

“When you decide to ban books what, at root, one is doing is banning brains.”  
William Schweiker

PRELUDE “More Love to Thee, O Christ” arr. Albin C. Whitworth

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Andy Bertolatus, Liturgist

\* CALL TO WORSHIP  
To everything there is a season  
A time to break down and a time to build up  
**A time to keep silence**  
**And a time to speak.**  
Let us worship God

As we attend to the work of our time,  
**So we might be equipped for those tasks  
We are called to do in these days.**

\*HYMN 278 “Our God to Whom We Turn”

\*OPENING PRAYER

**Living God, we seek your presence now.  
Our minds cannot fully understand you, yet our hearts rest in your love and compassion.  
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.  
Renew our vision of the goodness in which our day-to-day lives are lived.  
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 so that we can take our bearings afresh for the way ahead.  
In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.**

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#456, vs. 1 & 2)

**Awake, my soul, and with the sun  
your daily stage of duty run;  
shake off dull sloth, and joyful rise  
to pay your morning sacrifice.**

**Lord, I my vows to you renew.  
Disperse my sins as morning dew;  
guard my first springs of thought and will,  
and with yourself my spirit fill.**

DUET “More Love to Thee, O Christ” arr. Marianne Kim  
Tim Strang and Bill Crouch, piano

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 “The King of Love My Shepherd Is” arr. Robert Hebble

\*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      Ecclesiastes 12:9-14

#### PSALM 19

The heavens declare the glory of God,  
and the firmament shows forth the work of God's hands.

**One day tells its tale to another,  
and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

Although they have no words or language,  
and their voices are not heard,

**their sound has gone out into all lands,  
and their message to the ends of the world.**

The law of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul;  
the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.

**The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart;  
the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

The fear of the Lord is clean and endures forever;  
the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

**More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,  
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

By them also is your servant enlightened,  
and in keeping them there is great reward.

**Can people tell how often they offend?  
cleanse me from my secret faults.**

Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;  
let them not get dominion over me;

**then shall I be whole and sound,  
and innocent of a great offense.**

[Unison]

**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart  
be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON      II Timothy 4:9-13

SERMON      "Book Sense"

\* HYMN      "We Limit Not the Truth of God"      (Tune: ELLECOMBE, #288)

**We limit not the truth of God  
to our poor reach of mind,  
to notions of our day and place,  
crude, partial, and confined:  
No, let a new and better hope  
within our hearts be stirred:  
O God, grant yet more light and truth  
to break forth from your Word.**

**Who dares to bind to one's own sense  
the oracles of heaven,  
for all the nations, tongues, and climes  
and all the ages given?  
That universe, how much unknown!  
that ocean unexplored!  
O God, grant yet more light and truth  
to break forth from your Word.**

**Eternal God, incarnate Word,  
Spirit of flame and dove:  
enlarge, expand all living souls  
to comprehend your love;  
And help us all to seek your will  
with wiser powers conferred:  
O God, grant yet more light and truth  
to break forth from your Word.**

POSTLUDE "Postlude on 'Holy, Holy, Holy'" arr. Robert Hebble

Minister:	The Rev. Bill Lovin
Organist:	Bill Crouch
Choir Director	Dr. Chris Nakielski
Office Manager	Jenn Harden

**TODAY**

❖ Worship Service 10:15 am

**TUESDAY**

❖ Membership Board	5:30 pm
Diaconate	7:00 pm
Trustees	7:00 pm
Stewardship Board (Zoom)	7:00 pm

**NEXT SUNDAY**

❖ Worship Service 10:15 am

**YOU CAN HELP US AS WE WELCOME UI STUDENTS FOR THE FALL SEMESTER.**

As we did last year, we will welcome the new and returning students on the first day of classes, Monday, August 26. 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.

**SCREENING OF GOD AND COUNTRY—SUNDAY, AUGUST 25:** A group of people from various religious communities in Johnson County have come together in recent weeks to plan and sponsor free public screenings of the documentary *God and Country*. From producer Rob Reiner, *God and Country* examines the implications of Christian nationalism and how it distorts not only our constitutional republic but Christianity itself. Through the voices of prominent leaders, constitutional scholars, and journalists, the film asks the question: "What happens when a faith built on love, sacrifice, and forgiveness grows political tentacles, conflating power, money, and belief into hyper-nationalism."

We are sponsoring two free screenings of *God and Country*:

- Sunday, August 25 @ 3:00 p.m. at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church (140 Gathering Place Ln, Iowa City). The movie will be followed by a discussion led by Connie Ryan of Iowa Interfaith Alliance.
- Sunday, September 8 @ 2:00 p.m. at the Iowa City Public Library. A discussion will follow.

**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.