



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

WORSHIP FOR AUGUST 27, 2023  
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

“This is some of what I know right now about faith:  
That faith is not something I can summon by a sheer act of will.  
That it lives and breathes in the community that encompasses us.  
That I cannot force faith but can ask for it, can pray that it will make its way to me and bear me  
up over the next wave, and the next.  
That it comes.  
That I can lean into it.

That it will propel me not only toward the Christ who calls me, but also back toward the boat that holds my life, incomprehensible in both its pain and its grace.”

Jan Richardson

PRELUDE “Allegretto” John Stainer

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hope Spragg, Liturgist

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 145)

God is gracious and full of compassion,  
**slow to anger and abounding in love.**

God is good to all of us  
**and God’s mercy rests upon all God’s creatures.**

God upholds those who stumble  
**and raises up those who are sinking down.**

God is near to all who call,  
**to all who call with sincerity of heart.**

\*HYMN 469 “Morning Has Broken”

**Morning has broken like the first morning  
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird  
Praise for the singing, Praise for the morning  
Praise for them springing fresh from the Word!**

**Sweet the rain’s new fall, sunlit from heaven  
Like the first dewfall on the first grass  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden  
Sprung in completeness where God’s feet pass.**

**Mine is the sunlight, Mine is the morning  
Born of the one light Eden saw play  
Praise with elation, praise every morning  
God’s recreation of the new day!**

\* OPENING PRAYER

**We greet you, God, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, and give you thanks for your steadfast love in our lives. We take heart that as we turn to you, you reach out to embrace us. As we step out onto new paths and take on new ventures, we seek to recognize your providence in the midst of what we do.**

**Give us clear sight to see the way ahead and courage to take the steps leading forward. Help us to make good use even of our hesitations and missteps. Transform our efforts into your desired ends.**

**When we are tempted to be foolhardy, give us wisdom in our choices. When we are guarded, give us confidence in our actions. Let us be mindful of the effects our choices have on others and let us live in harmony with them. Grant us each day a sense of your presence that carries, protects, and encourages us; through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

\* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#339, vs. 3)

**Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;  
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

ANTHEM     “Traveling Light”     Joel Hanson and Sara Groves  
                  Loralyn Hogue and Kevin Koepnick

#### 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     “Trio in F Major”     John Stainer

\*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 43:1-3a

\*HYMN 286   “Give to the Winds Thy Fears”

**Give to the winds thy fears;  
Hope and be undismayed:  
God hears thy sighs and counts thy tears,  
God shall lift up thy head.**

**Through waves and clouds and storms  
God gently clears thy way;  
Wait patiently; so shall this night  
Soon end in joyous day.**

**Leave to God's sovereign sway  
To choose and to command;  
So shalt thou, wondering, own God's way,  
How wise, how strong God's hand!**

**On God the Lord rely,  
And safe shalt thou go on;  
Fix on God's work thy steadfast eye,  
So shall thy work be done.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON      Matthew 14:22-34

SERMON      “Thinking Outside of the Boat”

\*HYMN 452      “O Day of God Draw Nigh”

**O day of God, draw nigh  
in beauty and in power;  
come with your timeless judgment now  
to match our present hour.**

**Bring to our troubled minds,  
uncertain and afraid,  
the quiet of a steadfast faith,  
calm of a call obeyed.**

**Bring justice to our land,  
that all may dwell secure,  
and finely build for days to come  
foundations that endure.**

**Bring to our world of strife  
your sovereign word of peace,  
that war may haunt the earth no more,  
and desolation cease.**

**O day of God, draw nigh  
as at creation's birth;  
let there be light again,  
and set your judgments on the earth.**

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE      “Fantasia”      John Stainer

Cover Art: “The Disciples See Christ Walking on the Water,” by Henry Ossawa Tanner. Public Domain. Des Moines Art Center. Tanner (June 21, 1859 – May 25, 1937) was an American artist who spent much of his career in France. He became the first African-American painter to gain international acclaim.

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 a.m.
	Children’s Church	During Worship
	Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall	After Worship

#### NEXT SUNDAY

❖	Worship Service	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.

#### **THE NEW FURNACES AND AIR CONDITIONERS HAVE BEEN INSTALLED.**

**HERE’S HOW YOU CAN HELP.** We received a major gift from a family in the congregation to help pay for the new units. Many other members would like to be a part of funding this project. Your gifts to the HVAC Fund will mean that we will need to use less of our reserves for this project. Thanks for your generous giving.

#### **WE WILL RECEIVE A SPECIAL OFFERING FOR MAUI WILDFIRE RELIEF EFFORTS** during worship next Sunday, September 3.

**A NEW MEMBER CLASS** will be held in the coming weeks. If you are interested in joining Congregational UCC or would like more information about us, we invite you to attend these sessions. For more information, please talk with Bill Lovin or call the church office, 337-4301.

**TIME TO JOIN THE CHOIR**—Do you enjoy singing? Our volunteer choir begins its season on Sunday, September 10, with a rehearsal at 9:00 a.m. and we will sing during the 10:15 worship service. This year’s “Choir Round-up” will take place after worship that morning. From there we meet each Sunday morning at 9 a.m. sharp for a one-hour rehearsal before the worship service. Whether you’re a long-time member or the new kid on the block, **WE WANT YOU!** The Congregational UCC choir is a wonderful group of people who work hard at making great music; you’ll be sure to enjoy this experience. Questions? Please get in touch with our choir director Dr. Chris Nakielski at [cnakielski@cornellcollege.edu](mailto:cnakielski@cornellcollege.edu).

**TEE OFFERING Will Be Received on September 24:** Our annual offering to support the Theological Education by Extension College in South Africa (TEE Offering) will be received during worship on Sunday, September 24. This offering has been a tradition in our congregation for several decades. It was initially started when the brother of our then minister, the Rev. Ed Heininger, worked for TEE in South Africa. TEE is a private, nonprofit, distance learning institution serving five south African countries. The mission of the college is to equip men and women for Christian ministry. Students come from 28 denominations across southern Africa including the UCC of South Africa. For more information about this amazing program, please visit their website at [www.tee.co.za](http://www.tee.co.za). Please plan to give generously—our support makes a difference.

**WE HAVE SEVERAL PARENTS TRYING TO DO IT ALL!** We also have several retired folks looking for a meaningful connection! How can you help?

**Sunday Morning Rush:** We need a few good chefs that would love to fix a very simple, lite breakfast for ONE (1) Sunday morning. You could have the use of the kitchen for a brief time to serve (not prepare) a warm breakfast from 9:00 to 9:15. Morning Glory Muffins? Breakfast Pizza? Egg casserole? Sausage rolls? Recipes provided. Fix it at home, bring it in hot!

**Drivers:** Are you available occasionally to give a child a ride to school, a lesson, or Sunday School?

**Tutors:** Do you have an afternoon to supervise reading, math, or homework?

**Mother's Helper:** Do you have an hour or two to watch a child (with the parent present) while the parent catches up on tasks like paperwork or weeding/gardening.

See: Rev. Ann Molsberry

**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. Our church has purchased a table for 10 and we've already filled it! The Mission Board is discussing getting a 2<sup>nd</sup> table. Last year 20 Unitarians attended the event. **There are currently 19 CUCC members planning to attend and more seats are available.** If you are interested in supporting JCIC by attending the Sept. 7 event, send a note to donna-hirst@uiowa.edu and/or Jenn at [uccicadmin@uccic.org](mailto:uccicadmin@uccic.org). If you can't attend, but would like to make a donation: Pay by check to: Johnson County Interfaith Coalition, Bea Hicks, Treasurer, PO Box 966, Iowa City, IA 52240. Put "2023 Faith in Action" in the Memo Line. Or for credit card or PayPal: <https://organizeiowa.com/donate/>.

**OUR NEXT HOPE LODGE DINNER WILL BE MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25.** Please see the sign-up sheet posted in Rockwood Hall. Contact Sue Dayton [cdayton7@mchsi.com](mailto:cdayton7@mchsi.com) with questions.

**THE SAFETY COMMITTEE HAS PLACED A NEW FIRST AID BOX IN THE KITCHEN.** It is on the counter on the far west wall.

**BOB ASHMAN WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO HEAR FROM FRIENDS AT CONGREGATIONAL UCC.** You can write to him at 51 S. Main St., Mansfield, MA 02048. You can call him at 319-512-6401 (although he generally does not check for voice mail messages).

**SHELTER HOUSE ANNUAL BBQ BASH, SEPTEMBER 22:** Shelter House is gearing up for their 2023 BBQ Bash! They invite you, your family, and all of your friends to join them for another year of delicious food, great music, yard games, and a genuinely good time in support of Shelter House's life-saving work in our community. They are thrilled to continue their partnership with Pop's BBQ, whose incredibly talented pitmasters will be cooking up something special just for Shelter House supporters. Homebrewed will be back for 2023 to perform their foot-stomping rockabilly music. Grab a ticket, load your plate, and enjoy refreshing drinks from Big Grove Brewery at the Johnson County Fairgrounds on Friday, September 22 from 5:00-7:00 pm. You don't want to miss it.

Tickets are on sale now at [www.shelterhouseiowa.org/bbq-bash/](http://www.shelterhouseiowa.org/bbq-bash/) (\$50 for adults and \$15 for youth).

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS:** Outerwear coat distribution is October 8-15.

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