



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

WORSHIP FOR AUGUST 31, 2025
TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

The sacred harp
That David played to make his
songs of praise
We long to hear those strings
That set his heart ablaze

The ringing strings
The thought that God turns music
into bliss...

Paul Simon

PRELUDE “Prelude in C Major”

Johann Albrechtsberger

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nathan Peters, Liturgist

*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 147)
How good it is to sing praises to our God;
for God is gracious and compassionate.

**God heals the brokenhearted,
and binds up their wounds.**

God lifts up the downtrodden
and takes pleasure in those who hope
in God's steadfast love.

**Sing to God with thanksgiving.
Let us worship God.**

*HYMN 483 “Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above”

**Sing praise to God who reigns above,
the God of all creation,
the God of power, the God of love,
the God of our salvation.**

**With healing balm my soul is filled
and every faithless murmur stilled:
To God all praise and glory!**

**What God's almighty power hath made
God's gracious mercy keepeth;
By morning glow or evening shade
God's watchful eye ne'er sleepeth;
Within the kingdom of God's might,
Lo! all is just and all is right:
To God all praise and glory!**

**The Lord is never far away,
but through all grief distressing,
an ever present help and stay,
our peace and joy and blessing.
As with a mother's tender hand,
God gently leads the chosen band:
To God all praise and glory!**

**Thus all my gladsome way along,
I sing aloud thy praises,
that all may hear the grateful song
my voice unwearied raises.**

**Be joyful in the Lord, my heart,
both soul and body bear your part:
To God all praise and glory!**

***OPENING PRAYER**

Creating, sustaining, and redeeming God, you are the Ground of our being, the love in which we live and move.

When we are lonely, may we be aware of your presence which is always with us.

When we are frightened, may we be grateful for your goodness that surrounds us at all times.

When we are uncertain, may we know your grace that accepts us as we are but does not leave us as we are.

In our time together, strengthen us with song and prayer so that in our time apart we might follow Jesus Christ, who is our Way, our Truth, and our Life. Amen.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#483)**

Creation thanks you, Holy One:

you made us and renew us.

Delighted at what you have done,

you show your greatness through us.

So may all living things proclaim

the wonders of their Maker's name:

to God all praise and glory!

SOLO "No Time" arr. By Susan Brumfield

**Women's Ensemble: Marie Von Behren, Nadia Spragg, Linda Svalstad, Sarah
Fairfield, Rachel Burchett, Erin Brown, Rebecca Weatherford**

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 "Offrande" Flor Peeters

***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 61:1-4

PSALM 146

Hallelujah!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any child of earth,
for there is no help in them.

**When they breathe their last, they return to earth,
and in that day their thoughts perish.**

Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help!
whose hope is in the LORD their God;

**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps faith forever;**

who gives justice to those who are oppressed,
and food to those who hunger.

The LORD sets the prisoners free;
the LORD opens the eyes of the blind;

**the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous
and cares for the stranger;**

the LORD sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.

**The LORD shall reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Hallelujah!**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Ephesians 5:15-19

SERMON Seven Psalms #6: "Psalms to Keep Singing"

* HYMN (insert) "My Life Flows on in Endless Song"

My life flows on in endless song;

Above earth's lamentation,

I hear the sweet, though far-off hymn

That hails a new creation;

Through all the tumult and the strife,

I hear the music ringing;

It finds an echo in my soul—

How can I keep from singing?

**What though my joys and comfort die?
My Savior still is living.
What though the shadows gather round?
A new song Christ is giving.
No storm can shake my inmost calm,
While to that Rock I'm clinging;
Since Love commands both heaven and earth,
How can I keep from singing?**

**When tyrants tremble, sick with fear,
And hear their death-knell ringing,
When friends rejoice both far and near,
How can I keep from singing?
In prison cell and dungeon vile,
Our thoughts to them are winging;
When friends by shame are undefiled,
How can I keep from singing?**

**I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin;
I see the blue above it;
And day by day this pathway smooths,
Since first I learned to love it;
The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
A fountain ever springing;
All things are mine since I am Christ's—
How can I keep from singing?**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Allegro” William Boyce

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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

MONDAY

- ❖ Church Office Closed in Celebration of Labor Day

TUESDAY

- ❖ Board of Christian Education 7:00 pm
Mission Board 7:00 pm
Stewardship Board (Zoom) 7:00 pm

SATURDAY

- ❖ UI Department of Religious Studies Tour

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.

PLEASE NOTE: The Church Office closed on Monday, September 1, in celebration of Labor Day.

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: "The Sacred Harp." Next Sunday: "Wait."

SING OUT!—JOIN THE CHOIR: Do you enjoy singing? Our volunteer choir begins its season on Sunday, September 7, 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.

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 the kitchen by 9 AM or place in the 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 (RALLY DAY) 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!

THANK YOU TO THE MANY VOLUNTEERS WHO HELPED WITH "MAKEOVER WEEK" in our upstairs classrooms: Allan Hogue, Rebecca Weatherford, Tom Mittman, Tina & Kevin Koepnick, Sally Strang, Matthew Spragg, Rachel Burchett, Nathan Peters, Sandy Lacina and Erin & Izzy Brown. Additional gratitude for helping with our Children's Church Summer camp to many of the aforementioned plus: Bea Hicks, Catharine Gartelos, Bill Lovin, Dianne Jetter and Betsy Henson. Our CE hearts are full!

GENTLE YOGA RETURNS Tuesday, September 9 at noon! This 45-minute class is appropriate for beginners, experienced or anyone wishing to focus on body awareness, increased mobility and relaxation. The \$10 suggested donation goes directly to the Immigrant Welcome Network. More information and sign-up is available in Rockwood Hall.

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.

The American Cancer Society Hope Lodge, which opened in 2008, offers 28 guest rooms located near treatment centers in the area. The program provides a free home away from home for cancer patients and their caregivers. More than just a roof over their heads, it's a nurturing community that helps patients access the care they need. Each Hope Lodge community offers a supportive, homelike environment where guests can share a meal, join in the evening's activities, or unwind in their own private room. Patients staying at a Hope Lodge must be in active cancer treatment.

JOIN US AT THE WINGS OF HOPE GALA! The Mission Board is proud to sponsor the Immigrant Welcome Network Gala – Wings of Hope, taking place on Saturday, September 20, from 5:00 to 8:00 PM at the Unitarian Universalist Society Fellowship Hall. This inspiring evening promises dancing, live music, and delicious food! As a sponsor, our church has reserved seven seats for attendees. If you would like to join us, please contact Jenn Hall at the church office: uccicadmin@uccic.org.

About the Immigrant Welcome Network (IWN) Founded in 2024 by immigrants, refugees, and passionate Iowans, the Immigrant Welcome Network of Johnson County is dedicated to empowerment and solidarity. Their services include: Temporary housing, Employment assistance, Permanent housing support, Help navigating new environments, ESL courses, Mentorship programs, Advocacy. Learn more at www.iwnjc.org.

THE MISSION BOARD IS SPONSORING A DIAPER AND TP DRIVE during September and October. Items received will go to the CommUnity Crisis Center or the North Liberty Food Pantry. Please drop off diapers and training pullups, as well as toilet paper in the box in Rockwood Hall. Large boxes are acceptable, as the pantries will divide them into smaller packets. If you want to contribute cash to this effort, the Mission Board will do the shopping—

just put “Diaper Drive” on your envelope or check. Let’s all get “behind” the effort and delight others with our generosity!

Please mark your calendar for our **PROGRESSIVE DINNER** on Saturday, October 4. The registration flier is in this newsletter. Please make plans to join us. This is a great way to meet new people and make new friends. We’ll start the evening with appetizers at Oaknoll from 5-6. After that, we’ll break into small groups and go to host homes for the main course from 6:15-7:45. The evening will end with dessert at Steve and Sue Wolken’s home from 8:-9:30. A registration sheet is included in this newsletter.

CHURCH PHOTO DIRECTORY: Our Membership Board is pursuing plans to create an “in house” photo directory to help everyone put names and faces together. If you have a photo that you would like us to use, please email it to Jenn Harden at uccicadmin@uccic.org. This fall we will have opportunities for photos to be taken at the church if you would prefer that option. Please watch for more information.

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).

To estimate your flight emissions and send an offset to Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity go to www.habitatsolar.org/. 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.