



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

WORSHIP FOR AUGUST 3, 2025  
EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chuck Connerly, Liturgist

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP (Unison)**

**Come, Come, Whoever You Are**

**Wanderer, worshiper, lover of leaving.**

**It doesn't matter.**

**Ours is not a caravan of despair.**

**Come, even if you have broken your vows  
a thousand times**

**Come, yet again, come, come.**

(Jalaluddin Rumi)

**\*HYMN 267 All Things Bright and Beautiful (verses 1-3)**

**Refrain:**

**All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful:  
The Lord God made them all.**

**Each little flower that opens,  
Each little bird that sings:  
God made their glowing colors,  
God made their tiny wings. (Refrain)**

**The purple-headed mountain,  
The river running by,  
The sunset, and the morning  
That brightens up the sky, (Refrain)**

**The cold wind in the winter,  
The pleasant summer sun,  
The ripe fruits in the garden,  
God made them every one. (Refrain)**

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

**Creator, we give you thanks for all you are and all you bring to us for our visit within your creation. In Jesus, you place the Gospel in the Center of this Sacred Circle through all of which all creation is related. You show us the way to live a generous and compassionate life. Give us your strength to live together with respect and commitment as we grow in your spirit, for you are God, now and forever. Amen.**

**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#267, vs. 4)**

**God gave us eyes to see them,  
and lips that we might tell  
how great is God Almighty,  
who has made all things well'**

**Refrain:**

**All things bright and beautiful,  
all creatures great and small,  
all things wise and wonderful,  
the Lord God made them all.**

**ANTHEM      How Can I Keep from Singing      arr. Richard Walters  
                 Mary Bryant & Rachel Burchett**

**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

\*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      Psalm 19

The heavens are telling the glory of God,  
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

Day to day pours forth speech,  
and night to night declares knowledge.

There is no speech, nor are there words;  
their voice is not heard;

yet their voice goes out through all the earth  
and their words to the end of the world.

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,  
which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,  
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

Its rising is from the end of the heavens  
and its circuit to the end of them,  
and nothing is hid from its heat.

The law of the LORD is perfect,  
reviving the soul;  
the decrees of the LORD are sure,  
making wise the simple;  
the precepts of the LORD are right,  
rejoicing the heart;  
the commandment of the LORD is clear,  
enlightening the eyes;  
the fear of the LORD is pure,  
enduring forever;

the ordinances of the LORD are true  
and righteous altogether.  
More to be desired are they than gold,  
even much fine gold;  
sweeter also than honey  
and drippings of the honeycomb.

Moreover, by them is your servant warned;  
in keeping them there is great reward

But who can detect one's own errors?  
Clear me from hidden faults.  
Keep back your servant also from the insolent;  
do not let them have dominion over me.  
Then I shall be blameless  
and innocent of great transgression.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart  
be acceptable to you,  
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

SERMON      "Reading the Psalms as a Devotion"

\*HYMN 527              "Near to the Heart of God"

**There is a place of quiet rest,  
Near to the heart of God,  
A place where sin cannot molest,  
Near to the heart of God.**

**Refrain:**

**O Jesus, blest Redeemer,  
Sent from the heart of God,  
Hold us, who wait before Thee,  
Near to the heart of God.**

**There is a place of comfort sweet,  
Near to the heart of God,  
A place where we our Savior meet,  
Near to the heart of God. (Refrain)**

**There is a place of full release,  
Near to the heart of God,  
A place where all is joy and peace,  
Near to the heart of God. (Refrain)**

BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

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
VBS Planning Meeting	After Worship

### TUESDAY

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

### SATURDAY

❖ Women's Reading Group	9:00 am
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### NEXT SUNDAY

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

**WE WELCOME THE REV. LIBBY CONLEY** to our pulpit this morning. Libby is an ordained Mennonite minister and a former hospital chaplain.

**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:** Jenn Harden, our Office Manager, will be back in the office tomorrow, Monday, August 4. Thanks to everyone who filled in while she was on vacation. Bill Lovin is on vacation from Sunday, August 3-Sunday, August 10. Because of this vacation schedule, the August newsletter will not be published until early this month.

**HELP PLAN VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:** Join us upstairs in the Sunday School room *after worship this morning* for a Vacation Bible School planning meeting! We'll introduce this year's theme, share song and activity ideas, and explore ways *you* can be part of creating a joyful VBS experience. All ages and skill sets welcome—come see where you might fit in!

**THE WOMEN'S READING GROUP** will meet August 9 at 10 a.m. to discuss "In the Garden of Delights, The Book of the Bride" and the last chapter of *In the Sanctuary of Women*. All are welcome!

**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!

**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.

**ACCOMPANY 7 FAMILIES TO ICE CHECK-IN:** Tuesday, August 5, 2025 7:30 AM - 9:00 AM. Cedar Rapids ICE Office, 3351 Square D Dr SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404  
Elected officials, clergy, and everyday Iowans just like you will accompany seven immigrant workers to their increasingly risky ICE check-ins. In this time of super-charged mass deportations and increased detentions and check-ins, your presence is more important than ever. [RSVP HERE](#).

**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](mailto: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.