



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

WORSHIP FOR SEPTEMBER 17, 2023  
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

“The Christian life, which means drawing ever more fully into the path of Jesus, is always a mystery, always an adventure. It is never fully exhausted; there is always a surprise waiting for us around the corner.”

Thomas Long

PRELUDE

“Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring”  
Tim Strang & Bill Crouch, piano

J.S. Bach/arr. Mark Hayes

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bea Hicks, Liturgist

CHORAL INTROIT

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

In these days of change and challenge, God speaks through the prophet:  
“Behold, I am doing a new thing.”

**God makes a way through the wilderness of our lives  
God brings abundance out of scarcity, a way out of no way.**

Let us worship with open eyes, open minds, and open hearts  
that we might know and live in the goodness of God.

**We will join with all creation  
in singing to God.**

\* HYMN 218 “New Songs of Celebration Render”

**New songs of celebration render  
To God who has great wonders done;  
Love sits enthroned in ageless splendor;  
Come and adore the Mighty One.  
God has made known the great salvation  
Which all his friends with joy confess.  
God has revealed to every nation  
Truth and unending righteousness.**

**Joyfully, heartily resounding,  
Let every instrument and voice  
Peal out the praise of grace abounding,  
Calling the whole world to rejoice.  
Trumpets and organs, set in motion  
Such sounds as make the heavens ring;  
All things that live in earth and ocean,  
Sound forth the song, your praises bring.**

**Rivers and seas and torrents roaring,  
Honor the Lord with wild acclaim;  
Mountains and stones look up adoring,  
And find a voice to praise God's name.  
Righteous, commanding, ever glorious,  
Praises be sung that never cease;  
Just is our God, whose truth victorious  
Establishes the world in peace.**

\*OPENING PRAYER

**As a new day and a new week begin, O God, help us to see the new things you are doing in  
our lives and in the world.**

**When we are worn out by what is immediately in front of us, lift our eyes toward the  
horizon, that we might see opportunity and possibility.**

**When we are held back by what we have done or failed to do, remind us of your  
forgiveness and put a new spirit within us.**

**When we are unsure of where we are going, give us strength to follow in the ways of Jesus Christ, known and to be made known to us.**

**Accept our prayers and our worship as you have accepted each of us and all of us. Amen.**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#218)**

**Come, living God when least expected, when minds are dull and hearts are cold,  
through sharp'ng word and warm affection revealing truth as yet untold.**

**Break from the tomb in which we hide you to speak again in startling ways;  
break through the words in which we bind you to live as conscience in these days.**

**ANTHEM "Ubi Caritas" Marcel Duruflé**

*Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.*

*Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.*

*Exultemus, et in ipso iucundemur.*

*Timeamus, et amemus Deum vivum.*

*Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero. Amen.*

Where there is charity and love, God is there.

The love of Christ has gathered us as one.

Let us rejoice and be pleased in it.

Let us honor and love the living God.

And with a sincere heart

let us we love one another. Amen.

**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.**

Choral Response

**SERVICE OF GIVING**

Invitation

Offertory "Blessed Jesus, at Your Word" Op. 28, No. 52 Marcel Dupré

\*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**

(At this time, children are dismissed to attend Children's Church.)

**SCRIPTURE LESSON** Isaiah 50:4-9a

**PSALM 138**

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart;  
before the gods I will sing your praise.

**I will bow down toward your holy temple  
and praise your name,  
because of your love and faithfulness;**

for you have glorified your name  
and your word above all things.

**When I called, you answered me;  
you increased my strength within me.**

All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O Lord,  
when they have heard the words of your mouth.

**They will sing of the ways of the Lord,  
that great is the glory of the Lord.**

The Lord is high, yet the Lord cares for the lowly  
and perceives the haughty from afar.

**Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe;  
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;  
your right hand shall save me.**

[Unison]

**O Lord, you will make good your purpose for me;  
O Lord, your love endures forever;  
do not abandon the works of your hands.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON      Mark 8:27-30

SERMON      “Liberals Listening to Jesus”

\*HYMN 278      “Our God, to Whom We Turn”

**Our God, to whom we turn  
When weary with illusion,  
Whose stars serenely burn  
Above this earth’s confusion,  
Thine is the mighty plan,  
The steadfast order sure  
In which the world began,  
Endures, and will endure.**

**Thou art Thyself the truth;  
Though we who fain would find Thee,  
Have tried, with thoughts uncouth,  
In feeble words to bind Thee,  
It is because Thou art  
We’re driven to the quest;  
Till truth from falsehood part,  
Our souls can find no rest.**

**All beauty speaks of Thee:  
The mountains and the rivers,  
The line of lifted sea,**

**Where spreading moonlight quivers,  
The deep-toned organ blast  
That rolls through arches dim,  
Hints of the music vast  
Of Thine eternal hymn.**

**Thou hidden fount of love,  
Of peace, and truth, and beauty,  
Inspire us from above  
With joy and strength for duty.  
May Thy fresh light arise  
Within each clouded heart,  
And give us open eyes  
To see Thou as Thou art.**

\*BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE            “Toccata”       Flor Peeters

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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

❖	Church School Breakfast	9:00 am
	Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am
	Christian Education	9:15 am
	Worship Service	10:15 am
	Children’s Church	During Worship
	Bill Crouch Celebration	After Worship

#### TUESDAY

❖	Deacons	6:00 pm
	Trustees	7:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

- ❖ New Member Class 7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY

- ❖ Women's Lunch @ Thai Spice 11:45 am

NEXT SUNDAY

- ❖ Church School Breakfast 9:00 am
- Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am
- Christian Education 9:15 am
- Worship Service 10:15 am
- Children's Church During Worship

**WE'RE GLAD THAT YOU HAVE JOINED US FOR WORSHIP THIS MORNING.** Bill Crouch has been the organist at Congregational UCC for 20 years! Please join us as we celebrate together during a special coffee hour after worship today. 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.

**TIME TO JOIN THE CHOIR**—Do you enjoy singing? Our volunteer choir rehearses each Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. sings during the 10:15 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).

**ADULT EDUCATION:** Next Sunday, September 24, Allan and Loralyn Hogue will conclude a discussion about the Iona Community, the ecumenical Christian community in Scotland that they visited earlier this year. Join us in Rockwood Hall at 9:15 a.m.

**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.

**FUN UI HOMECOMING VOLUNTEER/BAKING OPPORTUNITY!** The Mission Board will sell cookies and warm drinks during the U of I Homecoming Parade Friday, October 6. We

are asking for donations of one dozen homemade cookies or bars that are \$1 (larger) size. Items do not need to be individually wrapped but please bring a display card labeling what type and if they contain peanuts or tree nuts. Baked goods may be dropped off in the kitchen between 9-1 or 5-5:45 the day of Homecoming. We also need volunteers to sell the cookies and drinks. There will be a sign-up sheet in Rockwood Hall or you can sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0944ACA82FA7FDC16-cookies#/>

**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

**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. Volunteers are needed each day for preparation and distribution. You are invited to sign up for multiple

shifts during the distribution period. Here's the link—sign up today! <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0B49A9AE2FA20-warm4>

**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 [kdrichards1958@gmail.com](mailto:kdrichards1958@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 [kdrichards1958@gmail.com](mailto:kdrichards1958@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.