

CHORAL INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Grasp the beauty of this moment.

Life beside the river is a never-ending change.

Grasp the beauty of this moment

And give thanks that you are here.

It is only God who is eternal.

Let us worship God.

*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.

***OPENING PRAYER**

Creating, Redeeming, and Sustaining God, gather us in all our diversity and difference and hold us together as one in Christ. We seek your help and ask that

When we cannot let go of past wrongs, you would let your grace comes to us each new day;

When we are weary and worried, you would let your Spirit come to us and revive us;

When we are in despair about our world or our lives, you would renew our hope and point us toward tomorrow.

Speak gently to us now in our trouble and distraction that we might be still and know that you are God. Keep us aware of your presence with us as we live through the days ahead. Amen.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#151)**

**Praise to the living God, around, within, above,
Beyond the grasp of human mind, but whom we know as love.
In these tumultuous days, so full of hope and strife,
May we bear witness to your way, O Source and Goal of life.**

ANTHEM “Lead Me On” Brian A. Schmidt

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 “Prelude in E-Flat Major,” Op. 48, No. 10 Josef Renner

*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

Proverbs 4:10-18

PSALM 1

Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners,
nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

**Their delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on this law they meditate day and night.**

They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither;
everything they do shall prosper.

**It is not so with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

**For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked is doomed.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 7:13-14

*HYMN 339 “Be Thou My Vision”
**Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art--
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.**

**Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
Great God of heaven, my treasure Thou art.**

**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.**

SERMON “The Easy Way and the Hard Way”

*HYMN 419 “How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord”
**How clear is our vocation, Lord,
When once we heed Your call:
To live according to Your word,
And daily learn, refreshed, restored,
That You are Lord of all
And will not let us fall.**

**But if, forgetful, we should find
Your yoke is hard to bear,**

If worldly pressures fray the mind
And love itself cannot unwind
Its tangled skein of care:
Our inward life repair.

We mark Your saints, how they became
In hindrances more sure,
Whose joyful virtues put to shame
The casual way we wear Your name,
And by our faults obscure
Your power to cleanse and cure.

In what You give us, Lord, to do,
Together or alone,
In old routines or ventures new,
May we not cease to look to You--
The cross You hung upon--
All You endeavored done.

*BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE “Postlude” William Lloyd Webber

Cover Art: “Sermon on the Mount” by Laura James from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57891> [retrieved February 21, 2024]. Original source: Laura James, <https://www.laurajamesart.com/collections/religious/>. Used with permission of the artist. Laura James is a painter living and working in New York City. She explores biblical subjects through her unique contemporary use of the traditional art of Ethiopian iconography. She attended Union Theological Seminary in NYC.

Call to Worship—The Rev. Ed Heidinger, minister at Congregational UCC, 1966-1989, adapted.

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

❖ Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am
Christian Education for all ages	9:15 am
Worship Service	10:15 am
Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall	After Worship

❖ Gentle Yoga	TUESDAY Noon
❖ Prairie Piffari Rehearsal	THURSDAY 6:30 pm
❖ Progressive Dinner	SATURDAY 5:00 pm
❖ Choir Rehearsal	NEXT SUNDAY 9:00 am
Christian Education for all ages	9:15 am
Worship Service	10:15 am
Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall	After Worship
Eastern Iowa Association Meeting	3:15 pm
Edwards UCC—Davenport	
Youth Group	4:00 pm

WE'RE GLAD THAT YOU HAVE JOINED US FOR WORSHIP THIS MORNING.
Everyone is invited to Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall after worship.

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO GAVE TO OUR ANNUAL TEE OFFERING last Sunday. We received \$500. If you would still like to give, please put “TEE” on your check or envelope. TEE stands for the Theological Education by Extension College in South Africa. TEE is a private, nonprofit, distance learning institution serving five south African countries. Students come from 28 denominations across southern Africa including the [United Congregational Church of South Africa](#). From its start, TEE was open to both men and women and to people of all races. 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. Please give generously—our support makes a difference.

ADULT EDUCATION THIS SUNDAY, September 28, at 9:15 a.m. Please join Chuck Connerly for a discussion of Timothy Snyder's, *On Tyranny*, originally published in 2017. *On Tyranny* is a small 125 page book that can be read quickly. It features “20 lessons from the twentieth century,” primarily from Eastern Europe and Russia about how tyranny can come to dominate a society and the ways in which people can push back and overcome it. The book's premise is that tyranny does not happen overnight, but is a process that takes place over time. This means that people and society have time to push back and resist while tyranny is emerging. Now is that time. A detailed listing of the 20 lessons can be found at Snyder's Substack posting at <https://snyder.substack.com/p/on-tyranny>

JOHN REITZ'S RENAISSANCE WIND BAND, THE PRAIRIE PIFFARI, will be playing a free, short outdoor concert this afternoon as part of the Front Porch Concerts on the East Side. Bring your chair or sit on the grass.

When: Sunday, September 28, from 2 to 2:30 pm.

Where: 701 Grant Street in the Longfellow School area

Parking: On the street or at Longfellow
For more information and a full schedule of all the groups during the afternoon, go to <https://frontporchmusicfestival.com> and click on “schedule.”

SING OUT!—JOIN THE CHOIR: Do you enjoy singing? Our volunteer choir rehearses at 9:00 a.m. and 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.

GENTLE YOGA every Tuesday 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 are available in Rockwood Hall.

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!

HELPING OTHER MEMBERS: There are times when a helping hand is needed by a member to get groceries, run an errand, get a ride to an appointment, etc. If you would like to occasionally help out in this way, please see the signup sheet in Rockwood Hall.

BOUNCE INTO YOUTH GROUP ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, FROM 4-6PM! 5th–12th graders are welcome to bring a friend for dinner, Bible study & human bubble balls! Sign-up in Rockwood Hall!

AFTER WORSHIP ENCOUNTER (AWE) will meet after worship starting on Sunday, October 12. We will gather on the Sundays that the choir meets after worship to rehearse for the Christmas Music Sunday on December 7. We will be using *Living the Questions-The Wisdom of Progressive Christianity*. In this study we will be meeting progressive theologians such as: Borg, Crossen, Spong, Pagels. This is a beginning class that will introduce you to Progressive Christianity. Rev. Ann Molsberry will be leading the discussions. Please purchase your own book and read the first chapter for our first session. See you on Sunday, October 12 in the library.

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.

THE WINTER CLOTHING DISTRIBUTION (WCD), sponsored by the Consultation of Religious Congregations, will be from the afternoon of Sunday, 10/13, through the early afternoon of Saturday, 10/19. Over the span of these days they will set up, accept clothing donations, sort & organize clothing, distribute the clothing, & clean up after the event. As in past years, they are looking for donations of gently used or new WARM winter wear, with an emphasis on coats, snow pants, hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, boots & winter shoes. Heavy sweaters & sweatshirts are also appreciated. You can drop off any clothing contributions on Sunday 10/12 1-4; Monday 10/13 9-6; Tuesday 10/14 9-6 at the Riverview Community Church, 3001 Muscatine Avenue. Use door on east side of building.

Also, there's still a lot of room for more volunteers on the signup genius. **Volunteers will need to register using SignUpGenius at the following link:**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0B49A9AE2FA20-58487415-2025>

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.

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.

OPEN HEARTLAND ELVES NAVIDAD EVENT: Each year, families with children under 18 create a Navidad Wish List, sharing two gift wishes for every family member. Community members make those wishes come true by purchasing those gifts. This year, they are expecting over 400 immigrant families to participate. You can be a Navidad Elf by emailing openheartlandholiday@gmail.com. You will be matched with a local family by Oct 15, giving you plenty of time to purchase and deliver the gifts before the holiday party in early December. While the gifts themselves are much appreciated, what touches the immigrants the most is the love, care, and solidarity behind the tradition, reminding them that they are seen and valued.

USED MEDICINE BOTTLES NEEDED FOR REUSE IN CLINICS: 100 Grannies, a local environmental activist group, is sending used plastic medicine bottles to Africa to assist clinics in distributing medication. Donna Hirst is in charge of this project and would be pleased to have participation from members of the congregation. If you are interested, Donna can provide a very brief orientation to bottle preparation (donna-hirst@uiowa.edu). Donna will pick up bottles on Sundays.

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.