



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

WORSHIP FOR SEPTEMBER 3, 2023
FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Today is a communion Sunday. If you are joining us online, before the worship service you are invited to assemble what you will eat and what you will drink. It can be bread and grape juice or wine or something as simple as a cracker or rice cake and water for use in our worship.

“God’s generosity often violates our sense of right and wrong, our sense of how things would be if we ran the world.”

Charlotte Dudley Cleghorn

PRELUDE “Be Thou My Vision” arr. Mark Hayes & Marvin J. Gaspard
Rachel Burchett, piano & Bill Crouch, organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Tom Mittman, Liturgist

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

The heavens proclaim the glory of God
and the earth shows the work of God's hands.

**In late-summer abundance
we delight in the beauty of the earth.**

Let the goodness of God be upon us
and give success to the work of our hands.

Give success, O God, to the work of our hands.

***HYMN (insert) "Awake, Awake, to Love and Work"**

Awake, awake to love and work!

The lark is in the sky;

The fields are wet with diamond dew;

The worlds awake to cry

Their blessings on the Lord of life,

As He goes meekly by.

Come, let thy voice be one with theirs,

Shout with their shout of praise;

See how the giant sun soars up,

Great lord of years and days!

So let the love of Jesus come

And set thy soul ablaze.

To give and give, and give again,

What God hath given thee;

To spend thyself nor count the cost;

To serve right gloriously

The God who gave all worlds that are,

And all that are to be.

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Creator God, out of your abundance you have given us skills and time to use both for our own good and for the good of the world.

We confess that we worry about tomorrow and labor for that which does not satisfy. We do not enter into your rest and enjoy the fruit of our labor but eat the bread of anxious toil.

Our distorted ways harm other workers and damage your creation.

Forgive us. Nourish us with the bread of life and the cup of wholeness. Give us the confidence that in you our labor is not in vain; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (Tune: MORNING SONG)**

The soundless whisper of your voice, O God, your presence near,

**for these my longing spirit waits as for the morning clear,
as those who watch throughout the night till morning shall appear.**

**Because your love is steadfast, God, on you our hope relies;
you will redeem your faithful ones for all iniquities
and turn to songs of thanks and praise our sorrows and our sighs.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ANTHEM “Andante et Allegro” J. Edouard Barat
 Ben Copeland, Trombone

SERVICE OF GIVING

Invitation

Offertory “Moderato” Johannes Diebold

*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 are dismissed to Children’s Church)

SCRIPTURE LESSON I Corinthians 3:5-15

PSALM 145:1-10

I will exalt you, O God my Sovereign,
and bless your name forever and ever.

**Every day will I bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.**

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;
there is no end to your greatness.

**One generation shall praise your works to another
and shall declare your power.**

I will ponder the glorious splendor of your majesty
and all your marvelous works.

**They shall speak of the might of your wondrous acts,
and I will tell of your greatness.**

They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;
they shall sing of your righteous deeds.

**The Lord is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and of great kindness.**

O Lord, you are loving to everyone,
and your compassion is over all your works.

All your works praise you, O Lord,

and your faithful servants bless you.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 20:1-16

SERMON “Work, Wages, and the Grace of God”

THE LORD’S SUPPER

INVITATION

HYMN 305 “Jesus Our Divine Companion”

**Jesus, our divine companion,
By your lowly human birth
You have come to join the workers,
Burden bearers of the earth.
You, the carpenter of Nazareth,
Toiling for your daily food,
By your patience and your courage,
You have taught us work is good.**

**Where the many toil together,
There you are among your own;
Where the solitary labor,
You are there with them alone.
You, the peace that passes knowledge,
Dwelling in the daily strife;
You, the Bread of heaven are broken
In the sacrament of life.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

REMEMBERING AND GIVING THANKS

Let us join together in prayer:

**We thank you, O Christ,
that scattered though we are, with different needs and hopes
you call us together at this meal and unite us as one body.**

**We thank you for this bread and cup set before us,
food and drink to nourish us in body and in spirit,
signs of your life-giving love.**

**May they speak to us
of the everyday made holy,
of life made new,
of hope for your realm among us.**

We remember that on the night of his arrest...

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND SHARING OF BREAD AND CUP

(Communion will be served in the pews today. Please receive the bread or cup as they are offered to you by a deacon. Hold it until all have been served, and we will eat and drink together at the pastor's guidance. We serve grape juice, not wine. Gluten-free wafers are on the trays with the bread. In the Congregational United Church of Christ, we celebrate the Lord's Supper with openness and welcome. Everyone is invited to the table, regardless of church membership or denominational affiliation.)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Loving God, we give you thanks that you have nourished us at this table. Send us into our work with new resolve. Help us to work out the problems that have perplexed us, and to serve the people we encounter. May we see our work as a part of your great purpose and find significance in what we do. May we bring our creativity, energy, intelligence, imagination, and love to all our tasks and so give our hearts, minds, and wills to your glory; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

*HYMN 553 "For the Fruit of All Creation"

**For the fruit of his creation,
thanks be to God.**

**For his gifts to every nation,
thanks be to God.**

**For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping,
thanks be to God.**

**In the just reward of labor,
God's will be done.**

**In the help we give our neighbor,
God's will be done.**

**In our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will be done.**

**For the harvests of the Spirit,
thanks be to God.**

**For the good we all inherit,
thanks be to God.**

**For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all, that love has found us,
thanks be to God.**

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “How Great Thou Art”

Cover Artwork: JESUS MAFA. The Late-arriving Workers, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=48296> [retrieved August 28, 2023].

Original source: <http://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr> (contact page: <https://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr/contact>). JESUS MAFA is a response to the New Testament readings from the Lectionary by a Christian community in Cameroon, Africa. Each of the readings was selected and adapted to dramatic interpretation by the community members. Photographs of their interpretations were made, and these were then transcribed to paintings. 'The Life of Jesus Mafa' is a set of 63 pictures from the life and teaching of Jesus, viewed by the artist as if the events had taken place in a village in Cameroon. Millions of these images have been printed and distributed around the world since their creation in the 1970.

Congregational Response: “In Deep Despair I Cry to You (Psalm 130)” Words – Joy F. Patterson - ©1994 Selah Publishing Co., Inc. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-715458. All rights reserved.

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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

❖	Worship Service	10:15 am
	Children’s Church	During Worship
	Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall	After Worship

MONDAY

❖	Church Office Closed in Celebration of Labor Day
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TUESDAY

❖	Board of Christian Education	6:30 pm
	Mission Board	7:00 pm
	Stewardship Board (Zoom)	7:00 pm

NEXT SUNDAY

❖	Church School Breakfast	9:00 am
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Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am
Christian Education	9:15 am
Worship Service	10:15 am
Children's Church	During Worship
Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall	After Worship
Choir Roundup	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.

PLEASE NOTE: The church office will be closed on Monday, September 4, in celebration of Labor Day.

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 this morning.

BILL CROUCH HAS BEEN THE ORGANIST AT CONGREGATIONAL UCC FOR TWENTY YEARS. Please join us as we celebrate together during a special coffee hour after worship on Sunday, September 17.

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.

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. 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 2nd 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. 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 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/ (\$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 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. 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.