



# First Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

608 West Fourth St  
Waterloo IA 50702

www.firstcongucc.org  
phone 319-234-8927



## Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

October 22, 2023



**Worship Leader**

Paul Greene

**Mini Message**

John Mardis

**Director of Music**

Luke Overton

**Guest Preacher**

Rev. James Altenbaumer

**Organist**

Hudson Lourenço-Feld

**Office Manager**

Michelle Wolfe

**Custodian**

Kyle Lindaman

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here.*

**Prelude** *Bist Du Bei Mir (Art Thou With Me)* Hudson Lourenço-Feld  
BWV 508 - J S Bach

**Welcome and Announcements** Paul Greene

**\*Call to Worship and Gathering Prayer** Paul Greene

Leader: Hey look! Don't be afraid! I'm here with good news for you! It'll bring great joy to all the people!

**People: We are all ears! Tell us some good news!**

Leader: Not *some* good news! *THE* Good News! "In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord, God has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death, and reconciling the world to God."

**People: Wow! That really is good news! It certainly takes a load off my mind!**

Leader: Then let us rejoice and give praise and celebrate. Let us give thanks and use this time to tone up our faith, so that we may be messengers of the Good News. Let us worship God, and we begin by praying together--

**God of hope, we rejoice in Your presence and live in hope because You are with us. We thank You that Your messengers have carried the Good News to all Your people, in every time and place. The news of Your for-us-ness is so great, that sometimes we can't believe it and don't understand it. ALL the people? Be close to us now. Restore our trust and our courage, so that we might live all our days as joyful messengers of the Good News of Your love. We pray in the name of the one You sent to BE our Good News, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**\*Opening Hymn** *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You* #4 (NCH - Black)

**Joys & Concerns** Paul Greene

**Pastoral Prayer** Rev. Jim Altenbaumer

**The Lord's Prayer** (unison) Rev. Altenbaumer

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, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

**Mini-Message** John Mardis

**Choral Anthem** *The Lord is My Shepherd* - John Leavitt Chancel Choir

**Invitation to Offertory** Paul Greene

<b>Offertory</b>	Hymn Improvisation	Hudson Lourenço-Feld
<b>*Doxology</b>		#515 (Pilgrim - Red)
<b>*Prayer of Dedication</b>		Paul Greene
<p>Gracious God, Your giving knows no ending. We can only sing with the psalmist, “My cup runneth over!” We are awed by Your gifts: the wonders of nature, the teaching of Jesus, the costly cross, the empty grave. Accept our offering as our simple “Thank you.” And bless it, that it may be a blessing to others, in the name of Jesus. Amen.</p>		
<b>Scripture Lesson</b>	Matthew 4:23-25 GNB	Paul Greene
<b>*Hymn</b>	<i>O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing</i>	#42 (NCH - Black)
<b>Message</b>	<p>“<i>Jesus Loves You, This I Know</i>”  <i>(from the book Inspired by Rachel Held Evans)</i></p>	Rev. Altenbaumer
<b>Closing Hymn</b>	<i>In the Midst of New Dimensions</i>	#391 (NCH - Black)
<b>Benediction</b>		Rev. Altenbaumer
<b>Postlude</b>	<i>Chaconne</i> - Louis Couperin	Hudson Lourenço-Feld

\* You are invited to Stand

*Sunday School for students up to 6th grade is provided after the Mini-Message.  
We welcome your child(ren) to follow our Sunday School leaders to the  
youth director’s office at the conclusion of the Mini-Message.  
After church, you will be able to pick up your kids in the church basement.*