



# First Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

608 West Fourth St  
Waterloo IA 50702

www.firstcongucc.org  
phone 319-234-8927



## Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 24, 2023

As **F**or you,  
you meant evil **A**gainst me,  
but God meant **I**t for good,  
to bring **T**o pass,  
as it is t**H**is day,  
to save many people alive.

- Genesis 50:20

**Worship Leader**  
Abbie Chronister

**Mini Message**  
Rev. Brad Braley

**Director of Music**  
Luke Overton

**Guest Preacher**  
Rev. Brad Braley

**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** *Prelude in C* from *The Well Tempered Clavier* Hudson Lourenço-Feld  
- J S Bach

**Welcome and Announcements** Abbie Chronister

**\*Call to Worship** Psalm 103:1-3,11-13 Abbie Chronister

Leader: Praise the Lord, my soul!

**People: All my being, praise his holy name!**

Leader: Praise the Lord, my soul, and do not forget how kind God is.

**People: God forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases.**

Leader: God keeps me from the grave and blesses me with love and mercy.

**People: God fills my life with good things, so that I stay young and strong like an eagle.**

Leader: The Lord judges in favor of the oppressed and gives them their rights.

**People: The Lord is merciful and loving, slow to become angry and full of love.**

Leader: As high as the sky is above the earth, so great is God's love for those who have reverence for him.

**People: As far as the east is from the west, so far does God remove our sins from us.**

Leader: As kind as parents are to their children, so kind is the Lord to those who honor him. ...

**People: Whoever and wherever you are, lift your hearts in praises to God.**

**\*Prayer of Invocation** (unison) Abbie Chronister

Holy and merciful God, today we thank you for life. We thank you for our family, our friends, and even those we have never met. We thank you for every taste of bread, for every sip of water, for all the ways you provide for us and fill us up. We praise you for opportunities to learn and better ourselves, for the gift of conversation, for reminders that we are not alone. Help us remember that everything on this earth is a gift for which we thank you. Keep us mindful of your great provision, that our gratitude may bubble up and overflow. Keep us confident that, no matter how things seem, you are with each one of us with your love and care. Amen.

**\*Opening Hymn** *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* #15 (Pilgrim - Red)

**Joys & Concerns** Abbie Chronister

**The Lord's Prayer** (unison)

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** Rev. Brad Braley

**Choral Anthem** *Sing Praise to Him* - Mack Wilberg Chancel Choir

**Invitation to Offertory** Abbie Chronister

<b>Offertory</b>	Hymn Improvisation	Hudson Lourenço-Feld
<b>*Doxology</b>		#515 (Pilgrim - Red)
<b>*Prayer of Dedication</b>		Abbie Chronister
<b>Old Testament Lesson</b>	Genesis 50:15-21	Rev. Braley
<b>New Testament Lesson</b>	Romans 8:28-30	Abbie Chronister
<b>*Hymn</b>	<i>If You But Trust in God to Guide You</i>	#410 (NCH - Black)
<b>Message</b>	<i>“God’s Greater Good”</i>	Rev. Braley
<b>*Affirmation of Faith</b>	<i>“A New Creed”</i>	#887 (NCH - Black)
<b>Closing Hymn</b>	<i>Be Not Dismayed</i>	#460 (NCH - Black)
<b>Benediction</b>		Rev. Braley
<b>Postlude</b>	<i>Postlude in G</i> - Scotson Clark	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.*