



# Ripley United Church of Christ Celebration of Worship



May 3rd, 2026  
Fifth Sunday of Easter



## Ripley Church Meetings:

- Board of Deacons: Sunday, May 11th @ 10:00 am - Office
- Board of Trustees: Thursday, May 21st @ 5:30 pm - Office
- Mission Committee: Wednesday, May 13th @ 7:00 pm - Office

## Ripley Mission/Church/Community Involvement:

- Quilting: Thursday, May 7th @ 9:00 am
  - Saturday Soul Stitching - Saturday May 9th @ 9:00 am
- Noisy Offering - May 31st - Alive and Running (suicide prevention)

## Lenten Project 2026

Thank you to all who donated to Maternal Health - Tama County. Your contributions will make a real difference in the lives of the mothers and children this organization serves.

## Report on Ecclesiastical Council

Last Sunday, 16 members of the Ripley family travelled to Urbandale to support Pastor Jim in his "Ecclesiastical Council," or examination by delegates from all over the Central Association of the Iowa Conference of the UCC. The Council unanimously voted for Jim to move forward on his path to full ordination as a Minister of Word and Sacrament. We now begin the process of formally discerning a longer-term call for Jim, as his desire is to remain with us at Ripley for a very long time to come.

## Summer Dates to Note:

- RUCC Volunteer @ Tama County Fair - Tue. July 14th - 10:00 am - to 3:00 pm
- VBS Hosted @ Ripley - Aug. 3rd - 6th
- Winding Stairs Festival - Aug. 7th, 8th, 9th

## Welcome and Announcements Prelude and Candle Lighting

### Praise and Invocation (Excerpted from Psalm 31):

One: In you, O LORD, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me;  
**Many: Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily. Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.**

One: You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead me and guide me...  
**Many: Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God...**

One: Let your face shine upon your servant;  
**Many: save me in your steadfast love**

### Call to Worship:

One: Let us worship in the presence of a gracious and loving God.  
**Many: Amen**

**\*Opening Hymn:** "This is the Day" (Black Hymnal #84)

**Confession:**

One: Our scripture commands us to become "living stones" in the foundation of the Christian movement. To rid ourselves of all malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy and slander.

**Many: We shun our obligation to God and each other. We harbor these sins in our hearts. For this, we repent.**

One: Forgive us, Lord, our human failings.

**Many: Teach us to see, serve and love as we are called.**

**Silent Prayer****Assurance:**

One: Hear the Gospel! Our God is a gracious and loving God.

**Many: By His grace, we are forgiven**

One: By His love, we are set free

**All: Amen**

**Passing the Peace/ Children's Procession**

Our scripture teaches that the Kingdom of God belongs to those who enter it like a child. As our children come forward, it is our custom to greet each other from our places, then sing the children to the front with the traditional song "This Little Light of Mine." If you are worshiping with us online, please feel free to say hello in the comments, so we know you are here.

**Children's Celebration: "De Colores"**

**Reading:** 1 Peter 2:1-10

**Message:** "Living Stones"

**\*Response:** "The Church's One Foundation" (black hymnal #386)

**Offertory:**

**\*Presentation of our Offerings: Doxology (black hymnal #780)**

**\*Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**Prayers of the People****Communion (insert)**

**\*Closing Hymn:** "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less" (black hymnal #403)

**\*Benediction****Postlude**

\* Please stand, in body or spirit

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Thank you for attending Ripley UCC. We're glad you came.

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

\*CE helper today was Dalton Hulme

\*Reader was Jhonny Watson

Find us online at [www.ripleyucc.org](http://www.ripleyucc.org), or by searching "Ripley United Church of Christ" on Facebook. Or join us for refreshments downstairs after the service. An elevator is available by the south door for those who need it.

Pr. Jim is available to the community at 515-708-4343 (text is best) or [jimatripley@gmail.com](mailto:jimatripley@gmail.com)



## Communion

### Invitation

One: Our faith is one of extravagant welcome. We honor God's table, open to all.

**Many: We gather with all Creation.**

### Prayer

One: God be with you

**Many: And also with you**

One: Lift up your hearts

**Many: We lift them up to God**

One: Let us give thanks to God

**Many: It is right to give thanks and praise**

One: God of all creation, we give thanks for your continuous care. We praise the living, mortal example of your son, Jesus Christ, who offers a path to salvation. We honor the Holy Spirit, who reminds us of your truth, your presence and your promise.

**Many: God of Love and Grace, the whole Universe speaks to your Glory. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God. Hosanna!**

### Setting the Table

One: We remember that on the night of his betrayal and desertion, Jesus gathered the disciples for the feast of Passover. Jesus took the bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to the disciples, saying, "this is my body, broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, he took the cup, saying, "Drink this, all of you. This is the blood of the New Covenant, which is poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

**Many: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

One: This table is God's table, open to all creation. These elements are the body and blood of Christ, broken and poured for you. This faith we share is the Spirit, which unites us in Holy Communion.

For this, we give thanks.

**Many: We proclaim our continuing faith in the Good News of Jesus Christ, and offer our lives in service.**

One: Let us pray the words Jesus taught us:

### Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)

#### Call to the Supper

One: The bread which we break is the communion of the body of Christ.

One: The cup is the communion of the blood of Christ.

One: Jesus, Lamb of God

**Many: have mercy on us.**

One: Jesus, bearer of our sins

**Many: have mercy on us**

One: Jesus, redeemer of the world

**Many: Give us your peace**

One: The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

### Sharing the Elements

One: Take and eat, this is the body of Christ, broken for you.

**Many: Amen!**

One: Take and drink, this is the cup of the new covenant, poured out for you.

**Many: Amen!**