

# EPIPHANY



*Simple and Extraordinary*

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

WORSHIP FOR JANUARY 7, 2024  
EPIPHANY SUNDAY

*Today is a communion Sunday. Before joining the worship service, you are invited to get whatever you eat and whatever you drink. It can be bread and grape juice or wine or as simple as a cracker or rice cake and water for use in our worship.*

PRELUDE “We Three Kings of Orient Are” Janet Linker

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rachel Burchett, Liturgist

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Arise, shine, for your light has come;  
**And the glory of the Lord has risen upon us.**

**\*HYMN 474 “O Splendor of God’s Glory Bright”**

**O splendor of God’s glory bright,  
From light eternal bringing light;  
Thou light of life, light’s living spring,  
True day, all days illumining.**

**Come, Holy Sun of heavenly love,  
Shower down Thy radiance from above,  
And to our inward hearts convey  
The Holy Spirit’s cloudless ray.**

**O joyful be the passing day  
With thoughts as clear as morning’s ray,  
With faith like noontide shining bright,  
Our souls unshadowed by the night.**

**O Lord, with each returning morn  
Thine image to our hearts is born;  
O may we ever clearly see  
Our Savior and our God in Thee!**

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

**God of splendor and majesty, let your light permeate our lives. We become discouraged by the shadows we encounter in the world and in ourselves. Yet into this troubled world you came to dwell in our midst, shining light that nothing can quench. Rekindle in us your everlasting hope that our lives may shine with your love. Let us, like the magi, follow the light as it falls on the simple yet extraordinary places of our world. Amen.**

**\* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#602, vs. 3)**

**On those who sit in darkness The sun begins to rise,  
The dawning of forgiveness Upon the sinner’s eyes.  
God guides the feet of pilgrims Along the paths of peace.  
O bless our God and Savior With songs that never cease!**

SOLO “A Simple Song” Leonard Bernstein

Chris Nakielsi

SERVICE OF GIVING

Invitation

Offertory "The Three Wise Men Meet Erik Satie" arr. Tim Strang  
Tim Strang & Bill Crouch, piano

\*Response

As with gladness sages bold  
did the guiding star behold;  
as with joy they hailed its light,  
leading onward, beaming bright,  
so, true Morning Star, may we  
evermore your splendor see.

As with joyful steps they sped  
to that lowly manger bed,  
there to bend the knee before  
One whom heaven and earth adore,  
so, may we with willing feet  
ever seek your mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare  
at that manger plain and bare,  
so may we with holy joy,  
pure and free from sin's alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to you from whom they spring.

\*Prayer of Dedication

SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 60:1-6

PSALM 96

Sing to the Lord a new song;  
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.

**Sing to the Lord and bless the Lord's name;  
proclaim the good news of salvation from day to day.**

Declare the glory of the Lord among the nations  
and the wonders of the Lord among all peoples.

**For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised,  
more to be feared than all gods.**

Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples;  
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.

**Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the divine name;  
come to the holy courts with your offerings.**

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;  
let the sea thunder and all that is in it;

let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy  
before the Lord who is coming,  
who is coming to judge the earth.**

[Unison]

**The Lord will judge the world with righteousness  
and the peoples with truth.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON      Matthew 2:1-11

SERMON      “Simple and Extraordinary”

THE LORD’S SUPPER

INVITATION

HYMN      “O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright” (tune # 69 in hymnal)

**O Morning Star, how fair and bright,  
your beams shine forth in truth and light!  
Our Sovereign meek and lowly!  
O Root of Jesse, Promised One, our only Savior,  
you have won our hearts to serve you solely!  
You are holy, great and glorious, all victorious,  
rich in blessing,  
rule and might o’er all possessing.**

**Come heavenly Brightness, Light divine,  
and deep within our hearts now shine;  
there light a flame undying!  
In your one body let us be as living branches of a tree,  
your life our lives supplying.  
Longing for you does possess us;  
turn and bless us;  
here in sadness eye and heart long for your gladness.**

PRAYER OF PREPARATION AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

How good it is to greet you, Morning Star!

Your beauty ushers in the dawn,  
and in your light we see light.

**You reveal your love in joy and in sorrow.**

**All your creatures behold your works  
and testify to your faithfulness**

And so we come to you in prayer...

(Concerns and Celebrations followed by the Lord’s Prayer)

## REMEMBERING AND GIVING THANKS

Now, we remember Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.  
He took his place among us as one with human frailty.

**We remember that he called disciples and ministered to all.**

**He confounded the haughty and gave hope to the poor.**

**He ate with sinners and fed the multitude.**

On the night of his arrest...

## SHARING OF ELEMENTS

(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

**O God, who in Jesus called us out of shadows  
into wondrous light,  
may we always declare your merciful deeds.  
Give us courage and conviction,  
that we may turn and follow you,  
led by the light that shines  
through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

\*HYMN 411            "Arise, Your Light Is Come"

**Arise, your light has come!  
The Spirit's call obey;  
show forth the glory of your God  
which shines on you today.**

**Arise, your light has come!  
Fling wide the prison door;  
proclaim the captive's liberty,  
good tidings to the poor.**

**Arise, your light has come!  
All you in sorrow born,  
bind up the brokenhearted ones  
and comfort those who mourn.**

**Arise, your light has come!  
The mountains burst in song!  
Rise up like eagles on the wing,  
God's power will make us strong.**

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning” Wayne L. Wold

Minister:	The Rev. Bill Lovin
Director of Children’s Programs:	The Rev. Ann Molsberry
Organist:	Bill Crouch
Choir Director	Dr. Chris Nakielski
Children’s Choir Director	Majesty Constable
Office Manager	Jenn Harden

TODAY

❖ Church School Breakfast	9:00 am
No Choir Rehearsal	
Christian Education	9:15 am
Worship Service	10:15 am

TUESDAY

❖ Board of Christian Education	6:30 pm
Church Council	7:00 pm

SATURDAY

❖ Kitchen Orientation	9:00 am
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NEXT SUNDAY

❖ Church School Breakfast	9:00 am
Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am
Christian Education	9:15 am
Worship Service	10:15 am
Confirmation	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.

**THE MORAVIAN STAR** was given to Congregational UCC by the Williamson family. They came to Iowa City from Wisconsin and their family ancestry was Moravian. The Moravian Church took shape during the late 14<sup>th</sup> century, before the Protestant reforms of Martin Luther and John Calvin, following the simple religious practices of Jan Hus. The Moravian Star originated in Germany in the 1830s as a craft project to teach geometry and was quickly adopted by the Moravian Church as a symbol of the birth of Jesus, hanging in churches from the first Sunday of Advent until Epiphany Sunday. Our star has the traditional 26 points, although some can have up to 100. Each year John Johnson makes sure that it hangs at the front of our sanctuary for the Christmas pageant and through the 12 days of Christmas.

**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.

**YOUR CHURCH NOMINATING COMMITTEE** is looking for stalwart and generous members to fill remaining board slots. This means we're looking for you. We still have room on the diaconate, membership, trustees, and stewardship committees. Please contact either Andrea Rauer or Megan Carnes, if you'd like to volunteer. Andrea Rauer: [amrauer@gmail.com](mailto:amrauer@gmail.com)  
Megan Carnes: [carnesmegan@yahoo.com](mailto:carnesmegan@yahoo.com)

**KITCHEN ORIENTATION—JANUARY 13:** Please join the Diaconate for Saturday morning fun in the kitchen and afterwards for breakfast. The Deacons will have a kitchen orientation for anyone who has an interest in learning the few steps needed to host Sunday morning hospitality. On Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM, we will show where necessary supplies are kept, how to prepare the coffee, lemonade etc., and other kitchen secrets. We plan to go out for breakfast afterwards. There is a sign-up sheet in Rockwood Hall. If there is inclement weather on January 13<sup>th</sup>, there will be a snow day of January 20<sup>th</sup>.

We now have Theresa Messlein as our “kitchen czar.” She makes sure the kitchen is well supplied. If you notice something is needed, you can leave a note on the refrigerator or contact Theresa at [messlein@gmail.com](mailto:messlein@gmail.com).

**YOU CAN HELP WITH THE FREE LUNCH PROGRAM THIS MONTH:** The Free Lunch Program is continuing to serve lunches. Members of Congregational UCC serve on the fifth Monday of any month. Our next serving date is January 29 and if you are interested in helping in any way, please contact Vicki Thomae at [vickithomae@gmail.com](mailto:vickithomae@gmail.com).

**HOPE LODGE:** Our next Hope Lodge dinner will be Monday, January 15. If you would like to provide food, see the sign-up sheet in Rockwood Hall. As always, any congregation members are welcome to be there to visit with the Hope Lodge residents.

**CONTRIBUTE TO THIS YEAR'S LENTEN DEVOTIONAL:** We're inviting members and friends to write a short, one paragraph reflection on a particular Biblical text—we'll provide the text, you'll provide the reflection. If you are interested in being a part of this or have any questions, please contact Bill at [uccicrev@uccic.org](mailto:uccicrev@uccic.org) or call the church office at 337-4301 or call Patte Henderson at 594-7185 or Bryan Clemons at 330-7882. Lent begins on Wednesday, February 14. Easter is Sunday, March 31.

**DO YOU HAVE A CHURCH KEY?** We have 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 [kd Richards1958@gmail.com](mailto:kd Richards1958@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

[kd Richards1958@gmail.com](mailto:kd Richards1958@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.



