



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

WORSHIP FOR JANUARY 9, 2022
EPIPHANY SUNDAY

“Christ’s presence has hallowed all that we are and every place that we are, and by his grace the world and we can never be quite the same again. Therefore, we begin again, that in leaving the manger we may embrace the world for his sake and for ours.”

Peter Gomes

PRELUDE “O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright” Op. 135a, No. 29 Max Reger

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Where silence and darkness linger,

arise, shine, for the light has come.

Where sadness and fear remain,

the glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

Let us rejoice and give thanks.

Let us be radiant; let our hearts thrill and rejoice.

Let us worship God.

HYMN “The First Nowell” (refrain after verses 1, 3, &5)

The first Nowell the angel did say

Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;

In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,

On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain:

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,

Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star

Shining in the east beyond them far,

And to the earth it gave great light,

And so it continued both day and night.

And by the light of that same star,

Three wise men came from country far;

To seek for a King was their intent,

And to follow the star wherever it went. [Refrain]

This star drew nigh to the northwest;

O'er Bethlehem it took its rest;

And there it did both stop and stay,

Right over the place where Jesus lay.

Then entered in those wise men three,

Full reverently upon the knee,

And offered there, in His presence,

Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. [Refrain]

OPENING PRAYER

God of grace,

you have come to us in Jesus, the light of the world,

but there are times when we choose darkness

and cling to things that hide the brightness of your love.

We let ourselves become confused,

easily distracted, and we lose our way.
**Help us imitate the example of the magi,
who followed your light wherever it led them.
May we journey into our year
trusting that your goodness and light
will accompany us all the days of our life. Amen.**

TIME OF GRATITUDE

ANTHEM “Star in the East” Austin Lovelace

TIME OF PRAYER

Prayers of the People

Silent Prayer

The Prayer of Our Savior

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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Choral Response

SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 60:1-6

PSALM 72:1-14

Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;

**that he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;**

that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the little hills bring righteousness.

**He shall defend the needy among the people
and shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.**

He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.

**He shall come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.**

In his time shall the righteous flourish;
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

**The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute,
and the rulers of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.**

All kings shall bow down before him,
and all the nations do him service.

**For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress,
and the oppressed who has no helper.**

He shall have pity on the lowly and poor
and shall preserve the lives of the needy.

**He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence,
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.**

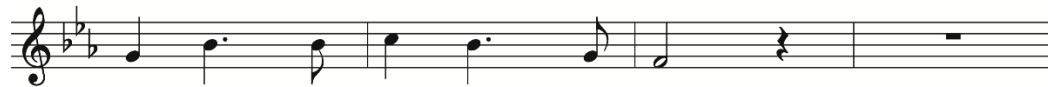
SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 2:1-12

SERMON “A Star Will Only Get You So Far”

HYMN “Hark the Herald Angels Sing/Jesus the Light of the World”



1. Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing.
2. Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise.
3. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored.
4. Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace.



Je - sus, the light of the world.



Glo - ry to the new - born King,
Join the tri - umph of the skies.
Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
Hail the Sun of Right - eous - ness!



Je - sus, the light of the world. We'll walk in the



light, beau - ti - ful light. Come where the



dew - drops of mer - cy shine bright. Oh, shine all a -



round us by day and by night. Je - sus, the light of the world.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE “O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright” John Ferguson

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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 |
| Office Manager | Jenn Harden |

The Staff of Congregational UCC wishes everyone a Happy New Year. We thank you for your support over the past year and look forward to the days ahead.

WE’RE GLAD THAT YOU HAVE JOINED US FOR WORSHIP THIS MORNING. We are putting the safety of both the vaccinated and the unvaccinated in our congregation and the community first. Because of the surge in Covid cases in Johnson County, we are pausing in-person worship for today and January 16.

WE ARE NOW LIVE STREAMING 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 will be the same each week.

RECORDINGS OF THE WORSHIP SERVICES are posted on Sunday afternoon at <https://vimeo.com/channels/1547852>. The recordings remain up permanently, so you can watch past worship services at your convenience or recommend them to a friend.

FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP SERVICES—If you would like to contribute flowers for the worship services on upcoming Sundays please call the office to let Jenn know or sign up on the sheet in Rockwood Hall.



Want to give online? Scan the QR code for our giving app.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION OF THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC OF IOWA CITY will be held in the sanctuary following our worship on

Sunday, January 30, 2022. We will receive reports of Boards and Committees, vote on the budget for 2022, and transact any other business that is fitting and necessary.

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 31 and if there is anyone interested in helping in any way, please contact Vicki Thomae at vickithomae@gmail.com

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO GAVE TO CHRISTMAS FUND OFFERING. We received over \$1130. Each year, the United Church of Christ's Christmas Fund Offering allows the UCC to assist retired pastors living on limited incomes as well as to supplement small retirement annuities and health premiums and to provide emergency grants to active and retired clergy and lay employees. The mission of the Christmas Fund is to provide assistance dollars in situations of critical need, while preserving the dignity of those who receive the aid.

ALTERNATIVE GIVING UPDATE: We received \$2240 for Heifer cards and donations this year. Thanks to everyone who participated in this annual event. Your giving will make a big difference in the lives of people. Thanks to the Mission Board for coordinating the project. And thanks to Ginny Clemons for her calligraphy that makes the cards so special.

Stewardship Is Heart Work: Many thanks to the many members and friends who have returned their pledge/estimate of giving cards for 2022. If you have not returned our card, please prayerfully fill it out and return it to the church as soon as possible. 2021 was filled with many challenges and we responded faithfully and with a generous compassion. We anticipate more challenges in 2022. Your deeply considered, prayerful support will help us to continue our Church's mission in downtown Iowa City and around the world. Thanks again for your generous giving.

Church Board Opportunities There are several opportunities to serve the church on one of our boards. There are openings on the Diaconate, Christian Education, Membership and Stewardship boards. Please contact Barb Sisley at (319) 430-2694 or sisleywebb@aol.com if you are interested in or want more information about any of these opportunities.

PLYMOUTH UCC IN DES MOINES INVITES PEOPLE FROM ACROSS THE STATE to join their six-session series *1619 Revisited* beginning on January 24. Participants can expect to read the 1619 Project essays published in The New York Times, listen to podcasts and musical performances, watch videos, learn from speakers, and engage in small-group discussions around medical inequality, the wealth gap, mass incarceration, education malpractice and undemocratic policies. Each session will offer advocacy ideas and action steps. All sessions are on Mondays and will be virtual on Zoom, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. The zoom link for the sessions will be sent in January. To register, please visit tiny.cc/1619-revisited For more information or if you have questions, please contact Sheena Thomas (sheenathomas96@gmail.com).