



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

WORSHIP FOR NOVEMBER 27, 2022
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PRELUDE “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” Gilbert M. Martin

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Chuck Connerly, Liturgist

CHORAL INTROIT

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

Matt and Hope Spragg, Nadia, Peter

*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Isaiah 2:3-5)

Come, let us travel onward toward the drawing vision of God,
and the wondrous hope of God’s coming reign in our midst.

**May we continue to learn God’s ways
and move forward on the paths given to us.**

Paths on which the sure promise of peace
through the laying down of weapons,
give strength and patience for the journey.

Sisters and brothers, come this day:

And let us worship in the light of God.

*HYMN 9 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.**

Refrain:

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death’s dark shadows put to flight. [Refrain]**

**O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
fill the whole world with heaven’s peace. [Refrain]**

*OPENING PRAYER

On this first Sunday in Advent, we celebrate the dawning of a new year in the life of the church. We thank you, God, for the gift of your Son in the flesh, and the possibility of New Life for all who seek to follow in his path. Open our eyes and open our hearts to the vision of Hope that you offer. Amen.

ANTHEM “Lift Up Your Heads” Peter Niedmann

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

SERVICE OF GIVING

Invitation

Offertory “Oh, Come, Emmanuel” Wilbur Held

*Response

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Christ, all creatures here below,
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;**

Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

All that we are, and all that we yearn to be, we offer this day, O God.

**Receive these gifts with our gratitude and praise
and may their use truly express our desire
to be a people of good heart and free spirit. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE LESSON Romans 13:11-14

RESPONSIVE READING Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 24:36-44

SERMON "Nobody Puts Baby in a Corner"

*HYMN 2 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

**Come, Thou long expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's Strength and Consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear Desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.**

**Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.**

*BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” Charles Callahan

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

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. Masks are highly recommended. Everyone is invited to Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall after worship.

WE WELCOME THE REV. BOB MOLSBERRY TO OUR WORSHIP THIS MORNING. Bob is a retired UCC minister and a member of our congregation.

BILL LOVIN WILL BE BACK FROM VACATION ON MONDAY.

ADVENT BEGINS TODAY. Our Advent and Christmas observances and celebrations renew some of our traditional activities and events and also bring some new possibilities. Here are some important dates:

November 27—First Sunday in Advent; Lighting of the Advent Candles begins.

December 4—Second Sunday in Advent; Communion

December 11— Third Sunday in Advent; Children’s Christmas Pageant

December 18—Fourth Sunday in Advent; Special Music Sunday

Christmas Eve is Saturday, December 24. There will be one worship services—at 5:30 p.m. Gala Reception follows in Rockwood Hall

Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25—Worship at 10:15 a.m.

ALTERNATIVE GIVING

In anticipation of Christmas, the Mission Board has organized Alternative Giving opportunities beginning this morning. Tree tags for the Salvation Army Angel Tree will be available. Gifts for kids will need to be returned to the church by December 18. The Mitten Tree will be available to be decorated with your donations of hats, gloves, scarves, etc. These items will be taken to the Iowa City School District for use in the schools, in honor of Joan Buxton who was a school nurse for many years.

Project Holiday tree tags/envelopes will also be available starting November 27. This is the CommUnity annual holiday meal distribution. Donations will be mailed by the donor, and must be received at CommUnity by December 17.

Mission Board members will take orders for Heifer Project gifts after church on November 27 and December 4. Payments by check will be received, and Ginny Clemmons will personalize

gift cards that can be mailed by the purchaser. The catalog can be viewed here: <https://www.heifer.org/gift-catalog/index.html>

Members of the church have offered to sell some of their art items for Alternative Giving, so be sure to stop by their tables to find a gift to purchase!

A NEW THREE SESSION BIBLE STUDY looking at the story of the birth of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke will begin on Wednesday, November 30 at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom. If you are interested, please email or talk with Bill.

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. Thanks.

THE STEWARDSHIP BOARD THANKS YOU for your generous gifts to support the ministry and mission of Congregational UCC again this year. In our presentations during the past several weeks you have heard about the great work these gifts have made possible. We are inspired by the compassion, caring, and community that we find here. If you haven't already, please prayerfully decide on the amount of your support for the coming year as you give thanks for God's surprising gifts. We ask that you fill out the pledge card and return it as soon as possible.

GIFTS FOR PARENTS, 9 A.M. – 1:30 P.M. ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 2675 E. Washington Street, Iowa City

An opportunity for kids, ages 4–14, to experience the joy of giving. Kids select up to 3 free gifts to give to important adults in their lives.

Donations and Volunteers are Needed!

Donations:

Faith community coordinators and individuals should deliver donated items to St. Mark's fellowship hall on Thursday, 12/1, at 9 am to 6:30 pm.

Items should be new, or gently used and clean. **NO** sized clothing; hats, gloves and scarves are welcome. Gifts for men are especially helpful. *For items requiring batteries, please supply batteries.* Suggested donations:

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|---|--|
| -caps, scarves, gloves | -flashlights (include batteries) |
| -jewelry, costume jewelry | -hand tool sets |
| -unique coffee mugs / cups | -craft items |
| -knick-knacks | -decorative key chain-gas prepaid cards |
| -wall art, shelf art, table art | -decorative soaps or bubble bath |
| -wallets & purses | -Amaryllis bulbs |
| -tree ornaments | -car emergency kits, ice scrapers / snow brushes |
| -scented lotion or after shave | -gift cards to local businesses |
| -scented/decorative candles | -tire pressure gauge |
| -kitchen gadgets: aprons, cutting boards, potholders, dish towels, etc. | -Hawkeye items |
| | -jigsaw puzzles, games & cards |

We also need donations of “Tall Kitchen” bags, small jewelry boxes, gift bags, bows, tape, & adhesive tags. **We do not need wrapping paper.**

Volunteers are needed for specific shifts within the broad time frames noted below:

- Set up/sorting on Thursday, December 1, 12–8:00 p.m.
- Set up/sorting on Friday, December 2, 9:00 a.m.-Noon
- Greeters, escorts, wrappers, cleanup, etc., Saturday, December 3, 8:30 a.m.–4 p.m.
- Assist the St Mark’s Men’s Group to prepare, serve & clean up after the pancake breakfast.

Get specific volunteer information and sign up to volunteer at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0B49A9AE2FA20-gifts1>

THE STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS AT THE CENTER FOR WORKER ARE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THE RETURN OF THEIR GIFT OF GIVING PROGRAM! The Gift of Giving initiative aims to connect local families with a sponsor who is willing to provide each family member with a gift. This year 30 families in need will be selected for the project. CWJ is currently looking for at least 1 sponsor per family. Sponsors can choose the size of family they would like to sponsor. Additionally, sponsors will receive information on members of their family such as age, gender, shoe size, shirt size, pant size, color preferences, and what the family needs most this year. If you or someone you know would like to be a sponsor, please fill out this form<<https://default.salsalabs.org/Tb5e665b2-ecd0-4103-a2c1-22dfc04815b4/30327e39-7511-423b-9906-e59cfda00b>>.

CHILDCARE IN THE CHURCH NURSERY is **extended** one hour from **9:15-12:30** on Sundays until December 20. This is to accommodate the extra choir practice for the adult choir.

USHERS, GREETERS, AND HOSPITALITY OPPORTUNITIES: As we continue to reopen, there are new 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.