



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

WORSHIP FOR DECEMBER 25, 2022
CHRISTMAS DAY

PRELUDE “Go, Tell It on the Mountain” Setting by John Carter

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Tina Koepnick, Liturgist

CHORAL INTROIT “Rise Up Shepherd and Follow”

*CALL TO WORSHIP
We are glad, Creator God,

when the dawn reveals the world to us,
innocent and fresh,
**so may we discover the infant in the manger,
and with delight be ready to start anew.**

*HYMN 23 “Angels We Have Heard on High”

*OPENING PRAYER

Eternal God, we greet this morning with gladness. We thank you for Christmas joy—for hearts nurtured by the love of family, for friendships renewed, for the warm greetings of strangers, and for the all that we are able to give. We thank you for this community which has become Bethlehem for us this morning. As we greet this day with joy, we ask you transform our lives in the knowledge of the good news you bring to all people. Amen.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

**Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning,
Jesus to Thee be all glory given;
Word that created, now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!**

ANTHEM

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.

SERVICE OF GIVING

Invitation

Offertory “Silent Night/The First Noel” arr. Gail Smith

*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

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

(There is no Children’s Church today. Children are invited to stay with their families. The nursery is available as needed for young children.)

CAROLS Bob Molsberry, dulcimer

SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 52:7-9

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 John 1:1-14

SERMON

*HYMN 29 “Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “O Come, All Ye Faithful” arr. Cindy Berry

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.

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:

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

New Year's Day, Sunday, January 1—Worship at 10:15 a.m.

January 8—Epiphany Sunday; The Sacrament of Communion

CHRISTMAS FUND OFFERING: 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.

There is still time to give to this offering. Please remember that your generous contributions can and do make a difference in the lives of many people.

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.

A NEW MEMBER CLASS WILL BE HELD IN JANUARY. If you are interested in joining Congregational UCC or would like more information, please talk with Bill Lovin.

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.