



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

WORSHIP FOR DECEMBER 26, 2021
THE SECOND DAY OF CHRISTMAS

God in Trinity, Creator, Savior, Giver of life and truth, reveal the possibilities within us, that we may attain the fullness of our humanity. As 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 in delight be ready to start anew.

New Zealand Prayer Book

PRELUDE Pastorale from “Christmas” Concerto Corelli

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ORGAN INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

People of God, sing and rejoice!

God has come to us in Jesus the Christ, to reconcile and make new.

**God has entered our existence of joy and sorrow,
taking on human likeness in Jesus, born of Mary.**

Therefore, we rejoice, praising God and singing:

**Glory to God in the highest,
on earth peace to those of goodwill.
Christ is born. Alleluia!**

HYMN 28 “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

**Good Christian friends, rejoice
With heart, and soul, and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before Him bow,
And He is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice,
With heart, and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door,
And we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice,
With heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all,
To gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!**

INVOCATION

Our faces are sometimes lined with worry, O God; our days are full of stress and struggle. Yet we come today grateful that in the midst of this crowded and troubled world, Jesus Christ was born, lived, and died, full of grace and truth. Surprise us with your presence; renew our sense of wonder; and give us peace and courage to live as your people in the world. May you be glorified in us, as in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

TIME OF GRATITUDE

SOLO “The Holy Boy”
 Marie Von Behren

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.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 7:10-16

PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

Restore us, O God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

**O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?**

You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

**You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

Restore us, O God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

**Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.

**Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 1: 18-25

SERMON “The Christmas Story”

HYMN 29 “Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

Refrain:

**Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!**

**While shepherds kept their watching
o’er silent flocks by night,
behold throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. [Refrain]**

**The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth. [Refrain]**

**Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. [Refrain]**

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Preamble" Vierne

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

Thanks to Bill Dickinson for playing the organ and to Marie Von Behren for singing this morning.

The Staff of Congregational UCC wishes everyone a Happy New Year. We thank you for your support over the past year.

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 required for all people in all parts of the building. We will keep social distance in the pews. There will be no coffee hour, although you are invited to talk with one another in Rockwood Hall as you leave.

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.

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.

We received the Christmas Fund Offering during our worship on Christmas Eve. There is still time to give. Please put "Christmas Fund" on your check or envelope. Your generous contributions can and do make a difference in the lives of many people.

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED on Monday, December 27 in celebration of Christmas and on Monday, January 3, in celebration of the New Year.

CELEBRATE EPIPHANY (the revelation of Jesus to the Gentiles, the coming of the Magi) with us on Sunday, January 2, 2022. In our 10:15 worship service we will bring our observance of Christmas to a conclusion, hearing the story of the Magi from the Gospel of Matthew. On Sunday, January 9, we will celebrate the sacrament of communion during 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 14th 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, January 6. 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.

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: Pledge/estimate of giving cards for 2022 have been sent out. If you have not received one, please contact the church office. If you have received a card, please prayerfully fill it out and return it to the church as soon as possible. 2021 has been filled with many challenges and we have 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.

GIVING UPDATES AVAILABLE: If you have any questions about your giving to the church or if you would like an update on your giving, please call the church office (337-4301) or email our Office Manager, Jenn Harden at uccicadmin@uccic.org.

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).