



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

WORSHIP FOR DECEMBER 4, 2022
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Today is a communion Sunday. If you are joining us online, before the worship service you are invited to assemble what you will eat and what you will drink. It can be bread and grape juice or wine or something as simple as a cracker or rice cake and water for use in our worship.

“Our time is a time of waiting; waiting is its special destiny. And every time is a time of waiting, waiting for the breaking in of eternity. All time runs forward. All time, both history and in personal life, is expectation. Time itself is waiting, not for another time, but for that which is eternal.”

Paul Tillich

PRELUDE

“People, Look East”

Wayne L. Wold

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Anna Mary Mueller, Liturgist

CHORAL INTROIT

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE
Lenore Maybaum, Noam, Jasper, Renn, and Willem Morton

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

We gather in preparation,

for good news is about to be proclaimed.

We gather in expectation,

for joy is about to burst forth in our midst.

We gather in celebration,

for we are those people who have said yes to the manger,

yes to love made flesh,

yes to the one incarnate for others,

yes to the wholeness of God.

With preparation and in expectation, let us worship God!

***HYMN 12 "People Look East"**

People, look east. The time is near

Of the crowning of the year.

Make your house fair as you are able,

Trim the hearth and set the table.

People, look east and sing today:

Love, the guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,

One more seed is planted there:

Give up your strength the seed to nourish,

That in course the flower may flourish.

People, look east and sing today:

Love, the rose, is on the way.

Birds, though you long have ceased to build,

Guard the nest that must be filled.

Even the hour when wings are frozen

God for fledging time has chosen.

People, look east and sing today:

Love, the bird, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim

One more light the bowl shall brim,

Shining beyond the frosty weather,

Bright as sun and moon together.

People, look east and sing today:

Love, the star, is on the way.

**Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
With the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.**

*CALL TO CONFESSION

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, Light of the Word, you caused light to shine out of darkness in the coming of Jesus Christ; you continually open to us the ways we are to prepare. We confess our unwillingness to see the light and to walk in your ways. We have not opened our eyes to the needs of others, and our feet have wandered from the paths of justice and peace. Forgive us and renew us in these days. May the Spirit of Christ dwell within us, that we might prepare your way in our lives and in our world. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#207, vs. 3)

**A sun and shield forever Are You, O Lord Most High;
You shower us with blessings; No good will You deny.
The saints, Your grace receiving, From strength to strength shall go,
And from their live shall rivers Of blessing overflow.**

ANTHEM The Eyes of All Wait Upon Thee” Jean Berger

SERVICE OF GIVING

Invitation

Offertory “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” arr. Richard Warner

*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

(At this time, children are dismissed to attend Children's Church.)

SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 11:1-10

PSALM 72

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.

**He shall rule from sea to sea,
and from the river to the ends of the earth.**

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.
Long may he live!

**May his name remain forever
and be established as long as the sun endures;
may all the nations bless themselves in him and call him blessed.**

Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous deeds!

**And blessed be God's glorious name forever!
and may all the earth be filled with the glory of the Lord.
Amen. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 3:1-12

SERMON "What Are You Waiting For?"

THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

HYMN 5 "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

**Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded,
For with blessing in His hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
Our full homage to demand.**

**King of kings, yet born of Mary,
As of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,**

**In the body and the blood;
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heavenly food.**

**Rank on rank the host of heaven
Spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of Light descendeth
From the realms of endless day,
That the powers of hell may vanish
As the darkness clears away.**

**At His feet the six-winged seraph;
Cherubim, with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence,
As with ceaseless voice they cry,
Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia, Lord Most High!**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

THANKSGIVING FOR BREAD AND CUP

**We thank you, O Christ,
that scattered though we are, with different needs and hopes
you call us together at this meal and unite us as one body.**

**We thank you for this bread and cup set before us,
food and drink to nourish us in body and in spirit, signs of your life-giving love.
May they speak to us
of the everyday made holy,
of life made new,
of hope for your realm among us.**

We remember that on the night of his arrest...

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Eternal God, we rejoice in the promise of your coming, a promise that awakens us from the night of fear and sets before us a new day and a new way. We thank you for coming to us in this meal to make us new and strong and whole. Now send us forth as your people, with our minds fixed on whatever is true and honorable and just and pure and lovely and praiseworthy, never forgetting that you are near us with your peace. Amen.

*HYMN 38 "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

**It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
To touch their harps of gold;
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,
From heaven's all gracious King":
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.**

**Still through the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.**

**And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow,
Look now! for glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing;
O rest beside the weary road,
And hear the angels sing.**

**For lo, the days are hastening on,
By prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever circling years
Comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world send back the song
Which now the angels sing.**

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE "Fantasy on the Hymn Tune *Picardy*"

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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

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 PREPARATIONS CONTINUE THIS WEEK. 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:

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

December 20—Winter Solace Service 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve is Saturday, December 24. There will be one worship service at 5:30 p.m.

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

A BIBLE STUDY looking at the story of the birth of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke has started. Even if you didn’t attend the first meeting, you can join us for the final two sessions on Zoom at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 7. If you are interested, please email or talk with Bill.

WINTER SOLACE SERVICE: The days before Christmas can be difficult, especially for those who are dealing with loss, illness, and other challenges. On Tuesday, December 20, Bill Lovin will be leading a Winter Solace Service in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. This year the worship service will be in person and live streamed. We are trying to bring out as much joy as possible in this season, but as we do so, we can also acknowledge our sorrow, our losses, our concerns and our fears. This will be a time of prayer and scripture reading and music.

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.

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.

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.