



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

WORSHIP FOR DECEMBER 8, 2024
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PRELUDE “Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying” Paul Manz

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE Torie Tan and Nathan Peters

*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 96)

O sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord all the earth.

**Sing and give praise to God’s name;
tell the glad news of salvation from day to day.**

[Unison]

Let us worship God.

*HYMN 20 “Watchman, Tell Us of the Night”

**Watchman, tell us of the night,
What its signs of promise are.
Traveler, o'er yon mountain's height,
See that glory-beaming star.
Watchman, does its beauteous ray
Aught of joy or hope foretell?
Traveler, yes; it brings the day,
Promised day of Israel.**

**Watchman, tell us of the night;
Higher yet that star ascends.
Traveler, blessedness and light,
Peace and truth its course portends.
Watchman, will its beams alone
Gild the spot that gave them birth?
Traveler, ages are its own;
See, it bursts o'er all the earth.**

**Watchman, tell us of the night,
For the morning seems to dawn.
Traveler, darkness takes its flight,
Doubt and terror are withdrawn.
Watchman, let your wanderings cease;
Hasten to your quiet home.
Traveler, lo! the Prince of Peace,
Lo! the Son of God is come!**

***OPENING PRAYER**

The hour has come, O God: wake us from our sleep. Let your grace keep us alert as we watch together for signs of your advent in our midst. Come to us with a new way. Come to us with new meaning and new purpose for our lives. Free our hearts and our minds, that we and our weary world may rejoice in the hope of a new day dawning. Amen.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#17)**

**All who hear the watchers singing,
Whose hearts with deep delight are springing, awake and rise up from your gloom.
For the Savior comes, all glorious, in grace arrayed, in truth victorious;
Our Star is risen, our Light is come!
Now come, O blessed One, God's own beloved Son, Alleluia!
We haste along, an eager throng, and gladly join the advent song.**

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 “Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying,” op. 28 no. 72 Marcel Dupré

*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

SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 52:7-10

*PSALM HYMN 218 “New Songs of Celebration Render” (Psalm 98)

**New songs of celebration render
To God who has great wonders done;
Love sits enthroned in ageless splendor;
Come and adore the Mighty One.
God has made known the great salvation
Which all the saints with joy confess.
God has revealed to every nation
Truth and unending righteousness.**

**Joyfully, heartily resounding,
Let every instrument and voice
Peal out the praise of grace abounding,
Calling the whole world to rejoice.
Trumpets and organs, set in motion
Such sounds as make the heavens ring;
All things that live in earth and ocean,
Sound forth the song, your praises bring.**

**Rivers and seas and torrents roaring,
Honor the Lord with wild acclaim;
Mountains and stones look up adoring,
And find a voice to praise God's name.
Righteous, commanding, ever glorious,
Praises be sung that never cease;
Just is our God, whose truth victorious
Establishes the world in peace.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Romans 13:11-12

A CHORAL OFFERING “*Hodie*” (This Day) Z. Randall Stroope

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE “Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying”

David Cherwien

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Minister:	The Rev. Bill Lovin
Interim Director of CE:	Hope Spragg
Organist:	Bill Crouch
Choir Director:	Dr. Chris Nakielski
Children’s Choir Director:	Rachel Burchett
Office Manager:	Jenn Harden
Financial Manager	Sharyn Huriaux Reitz

WE’RE GLAD THAT YOU ARE WORSHIPPING WITH US THIS MORNING. Everyone is invited to Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall after worship.

TODAY—SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- ❖ Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am
- Christian Education for Children 9:15 am
- No Adult Education**
- Worship Service-Special Music Sunday 10:15 am
- Advent Potluck After Worship
- Pageant Rehearsal 12-1:30 pm

TUESDAY

- ❖ Church Council Meeting 7:00 pm

SATURDAY

- ❖ Pageant Music Rehearsal 9:00 am
- Pageant Rehearsal 10-11:30 am

NEXT SUNDAY—THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- ❖ No Choir Rehearsal
- Adult Education Session 9:15 am
- Children’s Pageant Preparation
- Worship Service—Christmas Pageant 10:15 am
- Caroling 4-7 pm

**ADVENT, CHRISTMAS, and EPIPHANY CELEBRATIONS AT
CONGREGATIONAL UCC**

December 8—Second Sunday in Advent; Special Music Sunday
December 15—Third Sunday in Advent; Children’s Christmas Pageant
December 18—Winter Solace Service at 7:00 p.m.
December 22—Fourth Sunday of Advent; Worship at 10:15 a.m.
Christmas Eve is Tuesday, December 24—Worship at 5:30 p.m.

December 31—Seventh Day of Christmas—Worship at 10:15 a.m.
January 7—Epiphany Sunday; Communion

GIVING TOGETHER, GROWING TOGETHER: The Christian life is lived together. We gather to worship, we work with each other in mission, we study in groups, we bear one another's burdens, and we talk and laugh together over coffee. We give together. We grow together. Please return your 2025 pledge card as soon as possible. Extra cards are available on the table outside of the sanctuary.

ADVENT LUNCHEON: Please join us in Rockwood Hall for the Advent Luncheon (potluck) after worship this morning.

MISSION BOARD ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS GIVING FAIR—DECEMBER 15th! Be sure to visit our Alternative Christmas Giving Fair in Rockwood Hall after worship on December 15th. There will be Heifer Project animal gift cards bearing Ginny Clemons' graceful calligraphy and Church World Service "ornaments." Proceeds from Christmas cards, jewelry, and gift baskets donated by artists and craftspeople in our congregation will go to local community agencies. The Mitten Tree is awaiting your new or gently used mittens, scarves, and hats for the Joan Buxton School project. And the Angel Tree will have toy request cards from the Salvation Army and envelopes for a holiday meal donation distributed by CommUnity. Photo and picture frame sales will benefit our Church Endowment Fund. Contact John Reitz at 319-333-9588, john-reitz@uiowa.edu for information. **Come have a cup of coffee and browse!**

PLEASE JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS CAROLING for all ages on Dec. 15 from 4-7. The CE board will sponsor dinner in Rockwood Hall followed by Christmas Caroling. We are inviting First Presbyterian to join us for this festive event! We'll begin with supper & fellowship, followed by a brief caroling practice and then break into groups with addresses to visit church family & friends with the gift of song. Sign-up is in Rockwood Hall along with requests for favorite songs and suggestions of caroling destinations.

WINTER SOLACE SERVICE—DECEMBER 18: The days before Christmas can be difficult, especially for those who are dealing with loss, illness, and other challenges. On Wednesday, December 18, Bill Lovin will be leading our annual Winter Solace Service in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. We are trying to bring out as much comfort as possible in this season, and 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. The worship service will be both in person and live streamed.

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ON CHRISTMAS EVE, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, AT 5:30 P.M. This is a service for people of all ages. Our worship includes a time for children, special music, Christmas carols, a reading of the Christmas story from the Gospel of Luke, and lighting of candles. If you would like to be an usher for this worship service, please sign up in Rockwood Hall or call the church office.

Everyone is invited to the gala reception in Rockwood Hall after worship. This is a warm and wonderful time of fellowship and a chance to catch up with students and friends who are home

for the holidays. The reception will be even better if you volunteer to bring some cookies or other goodies to share. Sign up in Rockwood Hall or call the church office to let us know what you're bringing.

Members and friends may provide poinsettias for the sanctuary for our Christmas Eve worship service. If you would like to remember or honor someone with a poinsettia, please let the church office know that you will bring a poinsettia and the name of the person by Monday, December 18.

THE CHRISTMAS FUND OFFERING—CHRISTMAS EVE: 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 will receive the Christmas Fund Offering during our worship on Christmas Eve. Please remember that your generous contributions can and do make a difference in the lives of many people.

A NOTE FROM THE DIACONATE: COOKIES GALORE AT CHRISTMAS EVE Please join the traditional cookie brigade on December 24th. If you are able and willing to bring two dozen cookies, there will be plenty of mounded plates for filling the tables after our Christmas Eve Candle Light Worship Service. We'll have a special Christmas punch ready for everyone.

OUR MISSION BOARD INVITES EVERYONE TO ATTEND THE IMMIGRANT WELCOME NETWORK OF JOHNSON COUNTY OPEN HOUSE Friday, December 13 from 6-8. Learn about IWN 2024 accomplishments and future goals through client testimonials. Bring a friend and enjoy Sudanese tea, coffee, and finger foods. 1927 Keokuk St. Iowa City. Please sign up in Rockwood Hall or submit your RSVP electronically to <https://forms.gle/PiUKJn96GmfzCHMY6> to help IWN with planning.

HELP WITH SLEEPING MATS STILL NEEDED: With our winter weather just around the corner, the need for more sleeping mats for the homeless is growing! By contributing your plastic bags from your purchases we can help the homeless! Bring your clean, unneeded, plastic grocery bags, or similar plastic bags from your purchases here, to Rockwood Hall. We will see to it that they are delivered.

PLEASE HELP WITH PARKING IN THE CHURCH LOT: Several people currently have mobility issues and need to park in our small parking lot on Jefferson St. If you are able, please park elsewhere so that the marked and unmarked spaces can be used by those who need them. Thanks.

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 (319-337-4301) know right away. Thanks.

USHERS, GREETERS, AND HOSPITALITY OPPORTUNITIES: There are still some 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/1547852>. The recordings remain up permanently, so you can watch past worship services at your convenience or recommend them to a friend.

