

Epiphany



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

WORSHIP FOR JANUARY 8, 2023
EPIPHANY SUNDAY

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 as simple as a cracker or rice cake and water for use in our worship.

“Be patient toward all that is unsolved in your heart and try to love the questions themselves... Do not now seek the answers, which cannot be given you because you would not be able to live them. And the point is, to live everything. Live the questions now. Perhaps you will then gradually, without noticing it, live along some distant day into the answer.”

Rainer Maria Rilke

PRELUDE “Prélude sur l’Introît de l’Épiphanie” Maurice Duruflé

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Derek Willard, Liturgist

CHORAL INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us gather together.

Let us rejoice and give thanks.

Let us be radiant; let our hearts rejoice.

Let us worship God.

* HYMN 56 “The First Nowell” (verses 1-5; sing refrain after verses 1, 3, & 5)

**The first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

Refrain:

**Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.**

**They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.**

**And by the light of that same star,
Three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a King was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went. [Refrain]**

**This star drew nigh to the northwest;
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
And there it did both stop and stay,
Right over the place where Jesus lay.**

**Then entered in those wise men three,
Full reverently upon the knee,**

**And offered there, in His presence,
Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. [Refrain]**

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**We confess, God of Wonder and Might,
that we have not allowed your light to permeate our lives.
We become discouraged by the shadows we encounter in the world and in ourselves.
Yet it was into such a world that you came
to dwell in our midst, shining light that nothing can quench.
Rekindle in us your everlasting hope and promise
that our lives may shine with your love. Amen.**

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#602, vs. 3)

**On those who sit in darkness the sun begins to rise,
The dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes.
God guides the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace.
O bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease!**

ANTHEM "Arise, Shine, for Your Light Has Come" Martin How

SERVICE OF GIVING

Invitation

Offertory "As with Gladness Those of Old" Gerhard Krapf

*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 60:1-6

PSALM 27

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom then shall I fear?

**the Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom then shall I be afraid?**

Though an army should encamp against me,
yet my heart shall not be afraid;
and though war should rise up against me,

yet will I put my trust in the Lord.

For in the time of trouble you, O God, will give me shelter;
you will hide me under the cover of your tent
and set me high upon a rock.

**Even now you lift up my head
above my enemies round about me.**

Therefore, I will offer in in your dwelling
a sacrifice of great gladness.

I will sing and make music to you, O Lord.

**Hear my voice, O Lord, when I call;
have mercy on me and answer me.**

Do not hide your face from me,
or reject your servant in anger.

**You who have been my help:
do not cast me off or forsake me, O God of my salvation.**

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living.

**Wait for the Lord, be strong and let your heart take courage;
wait, I say, for the Lord.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 2:1-12

SERMON “Finding Our Way”

THE LORD’S SUPPER

INVITATION

*HYMN 506 “Deck Yourself My Soul with Gladness” (vs. 1)

**Deck yourself, my soul, with gladness,
Leave behind all gloom and sadness;
Come into the daylight’s splendor,
There with joy your praises render
Unto God, Whose grace unbounded
Has this wondrous banquet founded;
Come, for now the Lord most holy
Stoops to you in likeness lowly.**

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

(Communion will be served in the pews today. Please receive the bread or cup as they are offered to you by a deacon. Hold it until all have been served, and we will eat and drink together at the pastor's guidance. We serve grape juice, not wine. Gluten-free wafers are on the trays with the bread. In the Congregational United Church of Christ, we celebrate the Lord's Supper with openness and welcome. Everyone is invited to the table, regardless of church membership or denominational affiliation.)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Gracious God,
as we have come to this table for strength,
send us out filled with your love.
that we may meet the needs of the world that awaits us. Amen.**

*HYMN 411 "Arise, Your Light Is Come!"

**Arise, your light has come!
The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God
which shines on you today.**

**Arise, your light has come!
Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captive's liberty,
good tidings to the poor.**

**Arise, your light has come!
All you in sorrow born,
bind up the brokenhearted ones
and comfort those who mourn.**

**Arise, your light has come!
The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing,
God's power will make us strong.**

*BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE “O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright” Timothy Albrecht

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“Arise, Your Light is Come!” Ruth Duck, Words - ©1992 GIA Publications, Inc. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-715458. All rights reserved.

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.

NEW SUNDAY MORNING ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY: *Who and What is the Holy Spirit?* Led by Rev. Patte Henderson, we will explore biblical and theological thought on the Holy Spirit, at 9:15 a.m. on January 8, 15 and 22 in Rockwood Hall. Join us for discussion on this little-talked-about person of the Trinity.

CHRISTMAS FUND OFFERING UPDATE: We received \$1,555 for the Christmas Fund in December—an increase of \$550 from 2021. Thanks again for your generous giving! 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. There is still time to give to this offering. Please remember that your contributions can and do make a difference in the lives of many people.

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

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION OF THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC OF IOWA CITY will be held in the sanctuary following our worship on Sunday, January 29, 2023. We will receive reports of Boards and Committees, vote on the budget for 2023, and transact any other business that is fitting and necessary.

YOU CAN HELP WITH THE FREE LUNCH PROGRAM THIS MONTH. The Free Lunch Program is continuing to serve lunches. Members of Congregational UCC serve on the fifth Monday of any month. Our next serving date is January 30 and if you are interested in helping in any way, please contact Vicki Thomae at vickithomae@gmail.com

HOPE LODGE: Our next Hope Lodge dinner will be on Monday, January 23. Please see the sign-up sheet in Rockwood Hall if you would like to participate.

SACRED CONVERSIONS TO END RACISM: 1.5 day Intensive Workshop on Zoom, March 24-25. The Congregational UCC Mission Board is sponsoring a 2-day workshop on Zoom for members of the congregation. Our instructor will be Rev. Dr. Velda Love, national UCC Lead for Join the Movement Toward Racial Justice and Minister for Racial Justice. Details can be found in the Newsletter and periodic Bulletins. If you are interested in registering send an email to: donna-hirst@uiowa.edu.

THE CHURCH COUNCIL IS SEEKING A VOLUNTEER TO SCAN AND ORGANIZE THE HISTORICAL ANNUAL REPORTS. For more information, please contact the Church office.

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 kdrichards1958@gmail.com. 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 during January and February. Don't miss your chance. 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.