

ADVENT



My soul
glorifies
the Lord and my spirit
rejoices in God my Savior

Luke 1:46-47

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

WORSHIP FOR DECEMBER 10, 2023
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“The rejoicing of Mary is the rejoicing of us all.”
Wendy M. Wright

PRELUDE “*Chanson de la Vierge Pensive: An Aria for Organ*”

Andrew Carter

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hope Spragg, Liturgist

CHORAL INTROIT

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Darcie Hutzell and Fielding Woolums

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Let us open our hearts in welcome.

Let us rejoice and be glad.

Let us worship God.

***HYMN 49** “Once in Royal David’s City” (vs. 1 & 2)

**Once in royal David’s city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little Child.**

**He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and His shelter was a stable,
and His cradle was a stall:
with the poor, and meek, and lowly,
lived on earth our Savior holy.**

***OPENING PRAYER**

We rejoice, O God, that you come to us in our weakness and worry, bringing a peace that strengthens and comforts.

We offer our sorrow with our praise, for you have made the pain of the world your own.

We bring freely before you our shadows and regrets, for you forgive and heal.

We wait with a quiet heart for the Christ to whom all are dear, for he has made his home with us. Amen.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (“The Song of Mary”—KINGSFOLD)**

The arm of God is strong and just to scatter all the proud.

The tyrants tumble from their thrones and vanish like a cloud.

The hungry all are satisfied; the rich are sent away.

The poor of earth who suffer long will welcome God’s new day.

**The promise made in ages past at last has come to be,
for God has come in pow’r to save, to set all people free.
Rememb’ring those who wait to see salvation’s dawning day,
our Savior come to all who weep to wipe their tears away.**

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 "Of the Father's Love Begotten" Robin Dinda

*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 Micah 5:1-5

PSALM 80

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 Luke 1:46-55

A CHORAL OFFERING “Magnificat” Tyler Scott Davis

***BENEDICTION**

Rejoice in God always, and again I say, rejoice

We will go from here watching for God’s peace among all people.

Open yourselves to God’s gentle, transforming love.

We go forth from here in hope and peace.

Strengthen the weak...

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!” Lynn L. Petersen

Opening Prayer by James A. Whyte, adapted.

“My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise,” Contributors: 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
Children’s Choir Director	Majesty Constable
Office Manager	Jenn Harden

TODAY—SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

❖	Church School Breakfast	9:00 am
	Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am
	Christian Education	9:15 am
	(No Adult Education)	
	Worship Service—Special Music	10:15 am
	Advent Potluck	After Worship

TUESDAY

❖	Diaconate	6:00 pm
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SATURDAY

❖	Men’s Breakfast—Waterfront Hy-Vee	8:00 am
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NEXT SUNDAY—THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

❖	Church School Breakfast	9:00 am
	Christian Education	9:15 am
	Worship Service—Children’s Pageant	10:15 am

WE'RE GLAD THAT YOU HAVE JOINED US FOR WORSHIP THIS MORNING.

Everyone is invited to Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall after worship.

THIS MORNING OUR CHOIR OFFERS *MAGNIFICAT* BY TAYLOR SCOTT DAVIS

during worship. The Congregational UCC Choir is directed by Dr. Chris Nakielski and accompanied by Bill Crouch. Premiered and recorded by the acclaimed Voces8 in 2020, this gorgeous five-movement setting of the Magnificat is scored for SATB divisi voices and soprano solos (featuring Rachel Burchett and Marie Von Behren) with organ, harp, and percussion. The second movement is in English, opening and closing with a soloist. The remaining movements are choral only and are in Latin.

ADULT EDUCATION DURING ADVENT: Join Marsha Lowe around the fireplace in Rockwood Hall at 9:15 on Sunday mornings. Come and experience Scripture passages leading up to and including the Christmas story.

12/17 The Christmas Story Luke 2:1-20 What does this say about God? about people? about the relationship between God and people?

PLEASE HELP WITH PARKING IN THE CHURCH LOT: A number of people currently have mobility issues and need to park in our small parking lot off of 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.

THE ADVENT LUNCH IS THIS MORNING! It will be held in Rockwood Hall following worship. Everyone is invited and our joy will be greater if you join us.

WINTER SOLACE SERVICE—DECEMBER 20: The days before Christmas can be difficult, especially for those who are dealing with loss, illness, and other challenges. On Wednesday, December 20, Bill Lovin will be leading a Winter Solace Service in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. 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. The worship service will be both in person and live streamed.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE AT 5:30: Join us for worship on Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24.

At 5:30 p.m. we will have a service for people of all ages. This will include 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: 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 5:30 p.m. worship on Christmas Eve. Please remember that your generous contributions can and do make a difference in the lives of many people.

YOUR CHURCH NOMINATING COMMITTEE is looking for stalwart and generous members to fill remaining board slots. This means we're looking for you. We still have room on the diaconate, membership, trustees, and stewardship committees. Please contact either Andrea Rauer or Megan Carnes, if you'd like to volunteer. Andrea Rauer: amrauer@gmail.com
Megan Carnes: carnesmegan@yahoo.com

ALTERNATIVE GIVING FOR CHRISTMAS: Our Mission Board is ready to help you with your Christmas giving. Our annual Alternative Giving Fair will be held in Rockwood Hall after worship on December 17. If you have an idea for a sale item or would like to help in other ways, please contact Laurie Stunz (laura-stunz@uiowa.edu). If you knit, please consider making mittens and scarves for the Mitten Tree. Donations of mittens and scarves will be directed to the Iowa City Schools. Think outside of the box and let your giving help others. Gifts can be made in honor of friends and family to the Heifer Project, Habitat for Humanity and Church World Service. We will put up the Mitten Tree and have gift tags available for CommUnity Crisis Center's Project Holiday and Toys for Tots. Members are providing quilts, jewelry, artwork and more for sale—cash or checks only, please.

BLESSING BAGS: Sunday School students will be collecting **NEW single-use personal care/hygiene products** for their January mission and outreach project: Epiphany Blessing Bags. Please contribute to this effort: toothpaste and toothbrush, hairbrush and comb, hand sanitizer, hand wipes, bars of soap, shampoo and conditioner, hand lotion, and Band-Aids. This is a perfect solution for distributing those hotel-sized products that are gathering dust in your bathroom drawers!! Please put these items in the brown baskets found in the Children's Corner. In addition, the students will be adding cash, breakfast bars, socks, and gloves to the Blessing Bags...so monetary gifts marked "Blessing Bags" can also be placed in the Offering plate on Sunday.

OPEN HEARTLAND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: Open Heartland, an organization meeting a variety of needs of the Spanish speaking population of Iowa City, is seeking volunteers. Our youth are going to be involved, and this is an opportunity for adults in our congregation as well. Volunteer times and activities of sorting donations, packaging bulk foods and other needs are varied and flexible. If you are interested, contact Deb Dunkhase, the

director, at debdkhase@gmail.com or call or text her at 319-321-5528. Or for a little more information, ask /Ray Muston or Jane Kinney about the organization.

OUR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS OBSERVANCES AND CELEBRATIONS renew some of our traditional activities and events and bring new possibilities as well. Here are some important dates:

December 10—Second Sunday in Advent; Special Music Sunday; Advent Lunch after worship.

December 17—Third Sunday in Advent; Children's Christmas Pageant

December 20—Service of Solace—at 7:00 p.m.

December 24—Fourth Sunday of Advent; Worship at 10:15

Christmas Eve is Sunday, December 24—Worship at 5:30 p.m.; Gala Reception follows in Rockwood Hall

January 7—Epiphany Sunday; Communion

HOPE LODGE: Our next Hope Lodge dinner will be Monday, January 15. If you would like to provide food see the sign-up sheet in Rockwood Hall. As always, any congregation members are welcome to be there to visit with the Hope Lodge residents.

CHAMBER SINGERS CONCERT THIS FRIDAY, December 15, at 7:30 p.m. here at the Congregational United Church of Christ in Iowa City. "Holiday Voices" will showcase the voices of the Chamber Singers, weaving a tapestry of festive tunes. In addition to the musical delights, the program will feature holiday poems and readings, adding a touch of literary magic to the festivities. But that's not all they invite you to be part of the celebration during the audience holiday carol sing-along, where voices unite in harmony to create a magical atmosphere. As a fundraiser for the Chamber Singers, a freewill donation will be collected at the door. The festive spirit continues with a delightful cookie and cocoa reception following the concert, providing the perfect opportunity to mingle and savor the sweetness of the season.

NEW FURNACES AND AIR CONDITIONERS WERE INSTALLED IN THE SUMMER. HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP: We received a major gift from a family in the congregation to help pay for the new units. Many other members would like to be a part of funding this project. Your gifts to the HVAC Fund will mean that we will need to use less of our reserves for this project. Thanks for your generous giving.

DO YOU HAVE A CHURCH KEY? We have made new keys and are working at getting a better list of people who have keys. If you have a key to the church, please contact Trustee Chairperson, Kevin Richards, at (608) 807-7195 or at kd Richards1958@gmail.com. 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 or Trustee Chairperson, Kevin Richards, know right away. You can reach Kevin at (608) 807-7195 or at kd Richards1958@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. 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.