

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Raise your hearts and voices

Let us be glad

[Unison]

for great is God who comes to dwell among us.

***HYMN 41 “O Come, All Ye Faithful” (vs. 1 & 3)**

O come, all ye faithful,

Joyful and triumphant,

O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem!

Come, and behold Him,

Born the King of angels!

Refrain:

O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him,

Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels,

Sing in exultation!

Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, all

Glory in the highest! [Refrain]

***OPENING PRAYER**

**Loving God, we open ourselves to you trusting that this is how you made us:
you created us with the capacity for joy.**

You light our lives with the power of imagination.

Show us the creative power of hope.

**Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared,
that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.**

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#28, vs. 2)

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart, and soul, and voice;

Now you hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!

He has opened heaven’s door, and we are blest forevermore.

Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

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.

SERVICE OF GIVING

Invitation

Offertory "Silent Night" arr. Lani Smith

*Response

**As with gladness those of old did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
So, true Morning Star, may we evermore your splendor see.**

**As they offered gifts most rare at that manger plain and bare,
So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ to you from whom they spring.**

*Prayer of Dedication

*HYMN (insert) "O Come, Little Children"

**O come, little children, o come, one and all,
to Bethlehem run, to the manger so small,
and see this glad gift, God has sent you this night
to be your great gladness, your joy and delight.**

**He's born in a stable for you and for me;
draw near by the bright gleaming starlight to see.
in swaddling clothes lying so meek and so mild
and purer than angels, the heavenly child.**

**See Mary and Joseph with love beaming eyes
are gazing upon manger bed where he lies,
the shepherds are kneeling, with hearts full of love,
while angels sing loud alleluias above.**

**Dear Christ Child, what gifts can we children now bring?
no riches or treasures, but carols to sing
and hearts filled with praise we would offer today;
we offer them gladly; accept them we pray.**

THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

*HYMN 31 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" (vs. 1 & 3)

**Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King.
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;**

**With the angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

Refrain:

**Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"**

**Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that we no more may die.
Born to raise us from the earth,
Born to give us second birth.**

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE "O Come, All Ye Faithful" arr. Eugénie Rocherolle

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Minister:	The Rev. Bill Lovin
Director of Children's Programs:	The Rev. Ann Molsberry
Organist:	Bill Crouch
Choir Director	Dr. Chris Nakielski
Children's Choir Director	Majesty Constable
Office Manager	Jenn Harden

TODAY—THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

❖ No Church School Breakfast
No Choir Rehearsal
Christian Education 9:15 am
Worship Service—Children's Pageant 10:15 am

WEDNESDAY

❖ Winter Solace Service 7:00 pm

THURSDAY

❖ Women's Lunch @ Monica's 11:45 am

NEXT SUNDAY—FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



No Christian Education
Worship Service 10:15 am
CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE 5:30 pm

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

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

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.

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 this morning. 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.

THANKS ALL WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE FESTIVE AND FUN ADVENT LUNCH (100+ attendees) held in Rockwood Hall on December 10. Special thanks to our helpers: Kathi Koegle, Kevin Richards, Rick and Phyllis Ruppert, Vicki Thomae, Pam Willard, Marcy Kuchenmeister, Martha Ann Crawford, Ann Molsberry, and Chuck and Sue Dayton.

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 deb dunkhase@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 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.

THERE ARE A LOT OF NEW FACES HERE ON SUNDAY MORNINGS. You can help other people get to know you by wearing a name tag. The printed name tags for members are on the board outside the sanctuary. Name tags are also available for guests who would like one.

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.