



CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
30 N. CLINTON ST.  
IOWA CITY, IA 52245  
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WORSHIP FOR DECEMBER 24, 2022  
CHRISTMAS EVE

PRELUDE "In dulci jubilo," BWV 751 J.S. Bach

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE

Chris and Amy Lewis, Ella, Lily, Oscar, and Malia

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Come all who long for God.

**God is not far off.**

**God is near.**

Come and see

**In stable, star, and manger**

**The grace of God appears.**

\*CAROL 22 “Angels, from the Realms of Glory” (vs. 1-3)

\*OPENING PRAYER

**Eternal God, who is born among us this night: You share our humanity; you enter into the struggle of our lives and understand the disquiet of our hearts. With grace and truth you come—to break the yoke that burdens us, to bestow peace upon us, to bring light to our darkness, and to fill the earth with joy.**

**Renew our sense of wonder. Give us courage in the face of all that troubles us. Help us to tell the news of your peace and good will among all people; in the name of Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.**

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#22)

**Saints, before the altar bending,  
watching long in hope and fear,  
suddenly the Word, descending,  
here among us shall appear:  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

ANTHEM

A DECREE GOES OUT Luke 2:1-7

CAROL 44 “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (vs. 1 & 3)

WATCHING IN THE FIELDS Luke 2:8-14

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

THE SHEPHERDS ARRIVE Luke 2:15-20

\*CAROL 31 “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing” (vs. 1 & 3)

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

CHRISTMAS MEDITATION

CAROL “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” (vs. 1)

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.**

CAROL "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" (vs. 4)

#### SERVICE OF GIVING

Invitation

Offertory "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" arr. James Pethel

\*Response

**To God, all glorious heav'nly Light,  
To Christ revealed in earthly night,  
To God the Spirit now we raise  
Our joyful songs of thankful praise.**

\*Prayer of Dedication

#### SHARING THE LIGHT

Distribution of the Light

Carol "Silent Night"

(As the Light is passed, tip unlighted candles to receive the flame from lighted candles. Please keep lighted candles upright to prevent the spilling of hot wax.)

Silent Meditation

Prayer

\*CAROL 40 "Joy to the World" (vs. 1, 2, & 4)

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "O Come, All Ye Faithful" arr. Mark Hayes & Marvin Gaspard  
Rachel Burchett, piano & Bill Crouch, organ

We are glad that you have joined us for worship this Christmas Eve. The Staff at Congregational United Church of Christ wishes you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We thank you for your support over the past year.

**TONIGHT WE WILL RECEIVE THE OFFERING FOR THE CHRISTMAS FUND.** 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. Please remember that your generous contributions can and do make a difference in the lives of many people.

**ON CHRISTMAS DAY WE WILL WORSHIP AT OUR USUAL SUNDAY MORNING TIME.** Join us for worship at 10:15 a.m. Bill Lovin will be preaching.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2023 AT 10:15 WE WILL CELEBRATE EPIPHANY** (the revelation of Jesus to the Gentiles, the coming of the Magi). We will bring our observance of Christmas to a conclusion, hearing the story of the Magi from the Gospel of Matthew and celebrating the sacrament of communion.



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.