



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

WORSHIP FOR DECEMBER 24, 2021  
CHRISTMAS EVE

PRELUDE “Silent Night, Holy Night” Setting by John Leavitt

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT “Hodie Christus Natus Est” Glenn E. Wonacott

LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE

5:00 p.m. Ed and Becky Keogh, Eveylyn, James, and Maggie

7:00 p.m. Lenore Maybaum, Noam, Jasper, Renn, and Willem Morton

CALL TO WORSHIP

Gather round the manger.

Come shelter in the stable.

**Join with strangers and with friends.  
Come all who long for God.**

**Unison**

**There is good news of great joy.**

**God comes to us this night,  
A Child in our midst.**

Come see what God has done.

CAROL

“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

**Glorious God, as you came at night when all was still, so enter our lives this night. You share our humanity; you know 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.**

**Abide with us. Give us courage in the face of all that troubles us. Help us to hear and tell the good news of your peace among all people; in the name of Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.**

ANTHEM “My Lord Has Come” Will Todd

A DECREE GOES OUT Luke 2:1-7

CAROL        “**Away in a Manger**” (vs. 1)  
**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

WATCHING IN THE FIELDS        Luke 2:8-14

\*CAROL        “**Angels from the Realms of Glory**” (vs. 1 & 2)

**Angels from the realms of glory,  
wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
ye who sang creation's story  
now proclaim Messiah's birth:**

**Refrain:  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

**Shepherds, in the field abiding,  
watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing;  
yonder shines the infant light: [Refrain]**

THE SHEPHERDS ARRIVE        Luke 2:15-20

CAROL “**Hark! the Herald Angels Sing**” (vs. 3)  
**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.  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King"**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

CHRISTMAS MEDITATION

CAROL        “**It Came Upon the Midnight Clear**” (vs. 1)  
**It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,**

**from angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold:  
“Peace on the earth, good will to all,  
from heaven's all-gracious King.”  
The world in solemn stillness lay,  
to hear the angels sing.**

TIME OF PRAYER

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

**And ye, beneath life's crushing load,  
whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way  
with painful steps and slow,  
look now! for glad and golden hours  
come swiftly on the wing.  
O rest beside the weary road,  
and hear the angels sing!**

TIME OF GRATITUDE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SHARING THE LIGHT

Distribution of the Light

Carol “Silent Night” (vs. 1, 2, & 4)

**Silent night, holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright,  
Round yon virgin mother and child!  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.**

**Silent night, holy night!  
Wondrous star, lend thy light:  
With the angels let us sing,  
Alleluia to our King;  
Christ the Savior is born,**

**Christ the Savior is born.**

Silent Meditation

Prayer

CAROL 40 “Joy to the World” (vs. 1, 2, & 4)

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let us our songs employ  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE “Personent Hodie” Lara Hoggard

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.** This Fund provides pension and health premium supplementation to low-income retired church workers, both clergy and laity, and emergency assistance to the families of those currently working in churches.

**THE SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS, December 26,** join us for worship at 10:15 a.m. Bill Lovin will be preaching. Marie Von Behren will sing “The Holy Boy” as a solo. Bill Dickinson will play the organ.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 2, 2022 at 10:15 we will celebrate Epiphany** (the revelation of Jesus to the Gentiles, the coming of the Magi) and the beginning of the New Year. We will bring our observance of Christmas to a conclusion, hearing the story of the Magi from the Gospel of Matthew.