



CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
30 N. CLINTON ST.
IOWA CITY, IA 52245
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WORSHIP FOR DECEMBER 27, 2020
THE THIRD DAY OF CHRISTMAS

“God is doing something new, but it is not really new, because hope is always joined to memory, and the new is God’s keeping an old promise.”
Fred Craddock

PRELUDE “Go Tell It on the Mountain” Paul Manz

CALL TO WORSHIP

Break forth into singing, for God has comforted the people.

Rejoice and be glad for Christ is born!

HYMN “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

**Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today.
Ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye 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!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!**

OPENING PRAYER

Our faces are sometimes lined with worry, O God; our days are full of stress and struggle. Yet we come today grateful that in the midst of this crowded and troubled world, Jesus Christ was born, lived, and died, full of grace and truth. Surprise us with your presence; renew our sense of wonder; and give us peace and courage to live as your people in the world. May you be glorified in us, as in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 61:10-62:3

PSALM 148

Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise the LORD in the heights.

**Praise the LORD, all you holy angels;
praise the LORD, all heavenly host.**

Praise the LORD, sun and moon;
praise the LORD, all you shining stars.

**Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the heavens.**

Let them praise the name of the LORD,
who commanded, and they were created.

**The LORD made them stand fast forever and ever and gave them a law which shall
not pass away.**

Praise the LORD from the earth,
you sea-monsters and all deeps;

**fire and hail, snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, obeying God's will;**

mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars;

**wild beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and winged birds;**
kings of the earth and all peoples,
rulers and all judges of the world;
**young men and women,
old and young together.**

Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for the name of the LORD only is exalted,
and the splendor of the LORD is over earth and heaven.

**The LORD has raised up strength for the chosen people and praise for all loyal
servants,
the children of I srael, a people who are near to the LORD. Hallelujah!**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 2:21-38

SERMON “Attending”

TIME OF GRATITUDE

SOLO “*Gesu Bambino*”
Marie Von Behren

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN “Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

Refrain:

**Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!**

**While shepherds kept their watching
o’er silent flocks by night,
behold throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. [Refrain]**

**The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior’s birth. [Refrain]**

**Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. [Refrain]**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” Paul Laubengayer

The Staff of Congregational UCC wishes everyone a Happy New Year. We thank you for your support over the past year.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 2021 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.

ALTERNATIVE GIVING-2020: There is still time to give online to Project Holiday and Church World Service.

PROJECT HOLIDAY Project Holiday is CommUnity Food Bank's annual holiday meal distribution. Typically held the week before Christmas, **this distribution provides more than 1,500 Johnson County families with all the ingredients needed to make a traditional holiday dinner. Each \$25 donation will purchase a complete holiday meal for a local family in need.**

You can donate here: <https://builtbycommunity.org/project-holiday/> through December 31.

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

If you would like to give a gift through Church World Service, you can now do so through the special Congregational UCC site connected to the CWS site. Please note that this site will be available from November 29 through December 31. To reach the website, please follow this link: <https://fundraise.cwsglobal.org/uccic-best-gift>

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION OF THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC OF IOWA CITY will be held by Zoom on Sunday, January 31, 2021. We will receive reports of Boards and Committees, vote on the budget for 2021, vote on proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws of the congregation, and transact any other business that is fitting and necessary.