

Service for the New Year



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

WORSHIP FOR DECEMBER 31, 2023
THE SEVENTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS
NEW YEAR'S EVE

PRELUDE "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" Wilbur Held

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sue Dayton, Liturgist

*CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT

Deck the halls with boughs of holly, Fa la la la la, la la la la.

Tis the season to be jolly, Fa la la la la, la la la la.

Don we now our gay apparel, Fa la la la la, la la la la.

Troll the ancient Yuletide carol, Fa la la la la, la la la la.

**Fast away the old year passes, Fa la la la la, la la la la.
Hail the new, ye lads and lasses, Fa la la la la, la la la la.
Sing we joyous, all together, Fa la la la la, la la la la.
Heedless of the wind and weather, Fa la la la la, la la la la.**

**God rest you merry, gentle friends,
let nothing you dismay,
remember Christ our Savior
was born on Christmas day,
to save us all from Satan's pow'r
when we were gone astray;**

**Refrain:
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.**

**From God in highest heaven,
a blessed angel came;
and unto certain shepherds
brought tidings of the same:
how that in Bethlehem was born
the son of God by name, [Refrain]**

***CALL TO WORSHIP
Give thanks and be joyful for the turning of the year
 **Rejoice, rejoice, with thanks embrace
 another year of grace.**
Let us worship God.**

***HYMN (insert) “Now Greet the Swiftly Changing Year” (vs. 1-3)
Now greet the swiftly changing year
With joy and penitence sincere.
Rejoice, rejoice, with thanks embrace
Another year of grace.**

**Christ’s love abundant far exceeds
The volume of a whole year's needs.
Rejoice, rejoice, with thanks embrace
Another year of grace.**

**With such a Lord to lead our way
In want and in prosperity,
What need we fear in earth or space
In this new year of grace?**

***OPENING PRAYER**

God of wisdom and truth, we look back with gratitude and we look forward with expectation. Remembering the year that has passed, we are thankful that you were present with us and we rejoice that nothing could separate us from your love.

In the year ahead, give us grace and give us courage, that we might live with faith in this imperfect world; that we might live with hope in these challenging days; and that we might live with love as we follow in the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (“Now Greet...”—vs. 4)**

**“All glory be to God on high,
And peace on earth!” the angels cry.
Rejoice, rejoice, with thanks embrace
Another year of grace.**

POEM “Pavane for the New Year” Elder Olson

MUSIC Jing Qiao, violin

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

MUSIC Rachel Burchett, piano

SERVICE OF GIVING

Invitation

Offertory “Angels We Have Heard on High” Stephen Weber

*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

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

(The children are dismissed to Children’s Church)

SCRIPTURE LESSON Jeremiah 31:7-14

PSALM 90

Lord, you have been our refuge

from one generation to another.

**Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the land and the earth were born,
from age to age you are God.**

You turn us back to the dust and say,
"Go back, O child of earth."

**For a thousand years in your sight
are like yesterday when it is past
and like a watch in the night.**

You sweep us away like a dream;
we fade away suddenly like the grass.

**In the morning it is green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried up and withered.**

Who regards the power of your wrath?
who rightly fears your indignation?

**So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.**

Return, O Lord; how long will you tarry?
be gracious to your servants.

**Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;
so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Ephesians 5:15-20

SERMON

POEM "Ring Out Wild Bells

**LEADER: Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light:
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let it die.**

**NORTH: Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let it go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.**

**SOUTH: Ring out false pride in place and blood,
The civic slander and the spite;
Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of good.**

**ALL: Ring in the valiant and the free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;**

**Ring out the dimness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be.**

***HYMN 28 “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!**

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE “God Rest You Merry” Wilbur Held

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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	
	Worship Service	10:15 am	
		MONDAY	
❖	Church Office Closed		
		TUESDAY	
❖	Board of Christian Education	6:30 pm	
	Mission Board	7:00 pm	
		NEXT SUNDAY—EPIPHANY SUNDAY	
❖	Church School Breakfast	9:00 am	
	No Choir Rehearsal		
	Christian Education	9:15 am	
	Worship Service	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.

CELEBRATE EPIPHANY (the revelation of Jesus to the Gentiles, the coming of the Magi) with us on Sunday, January 7, 2024. In our 10:15 worship service we will bring our observance of Christmas to a conclusion, hearing the story of the Magi from the Gospel of Matthew. We will also share in the sacrament of communion.

THE MORAVIAN STAR was given to Congregational UCC by the Williamson family. They came to Iowa City from Wisconsin and their family ancestry was Moravian. The Moravian Church took shape during the late 14th century, before the Protestant reforms of Martin Luther and John Calvin, following the simple religious practices of Jan Hus. The Moravian Star originated in Germany in the 1830s as a craft project to teach geometry and was quickly adopted by the Moravian Church as a symbol of the birth of Jesus, hanging in churches from the first Sunday of Advent until Epiphany, January 6. Our star has the traditional 26 points, although some can have up to 100. Each year John Johnson makes sure that it hangs at the front of our sanctuary for the Christmas pageant and through the 12 days of Christmas.

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

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

KITCHEN ORIENTATION—JANUARY 13: Please join the Diaconate for Saturday morning fun in the kitchen and afterwards for breakfast. The Deacons will have a kitchen orientation for anyone who has an interest in learning the few steps needed to host Sunday morning hospitality. On Saturday, January 13th at 9 AM, we will show where necessary supplies are kept, how to prepare the coffee, lemonade etc., and other kitchen secrets. We plan to go out for breakfast afterwards. There is a sign-up sheet in Rockwood Hall. If there is inclement weather on January 13th, there will be a snow day of January 20th.

We now have Theresa Messlein as our “kitchen czar”. She makes sure the kitchen is well supplied. If you notice something is needed, you can leave a note on the refrigerator or contact Theresa at messlein@gmail.com.

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.

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.

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 kdrichards1958@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 kdrichards1958@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.