



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

WORSHIP FOR DECEMBER 5, 2021
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PRELUDE “Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella” - arr. by Eugenie Rocherolle
“Silent Night” - arr. by Tim Strang
Bill Crouch and Tim Strang, piano

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES
Kyle Flippo, Rachel Slezak, and Art Flippo

CALL TO WORSHIP
In the mingled light and shadow of hope,
let us greet our God.

HYMN “People, Look East”

**People, look east. The time is near
Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the guest, is on the way.**

**Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
One more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
That in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the rose, is on the way.**

**Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
Guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen
God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the bird, is on the way.**

**Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the star, is on the way.**

**Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
With the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.**

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.**

TIME OF GRATITUDE

**DUET “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” - arr. by Tim Strang
 Bill Crouch and Tim Strang, piano**

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.

CAROLS

“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]**

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

**Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung.
Of Jesse's lineage coming,
By faithful prophets sung.
It came a floweret bright,
Amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.**

**2 Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
The rose I have in mind,
With Mary we behold it,
The virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright
She bore for us a Savior,
When half spent was the night.**

36 “In the Bleak Midwinter” (vs. 1 & 2)

**In the bleak midwinter,
Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,**

**Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter,
Long ago.**

**Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him,
Nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away
When He comes to reign:
In the bleak midwinter
A stable place sufficed
The Lord God incarnate,
Jesus Christ.**

CHILDREN'S PAGEANT "In Light and Darkness"

Angel Gabriel: Izzy Brown

Mary: Nadia Spragg

Joseph: Evelyn Keogh

Shepherds: Lila MacInnis, Colin Beerends, Fielding Woolums, Oscar Lewis, James Keogh, Peter Spragg

Angels: Ella Lewis, Liliana Lewis, Malia Lewis, Maggie Keogh

Artist consultation: Hope Spragg

Set construction: Ann Molsberry, Ed Keogh, Sally Strang, Tina Koepnick, Sandy Lacina

Camera: John Johnson, Mark Kenaston

Narrators: Bea Hicks, Ed Keogh, Tina Kopenick, Ann Molsberry

Lighting: Sally Strang

Costumes: Jeanna Otto and Maragaret MacInnis

CAROLS

"Away in a Manger" (vs. 1 & 2)

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing, the poor baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.**

"Silent Night" (vs. 1 & 2)

**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!
Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia:
Christ the Savior is born.
Christ the Savior is born."**

**"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" (vs. 1 & 2)
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 hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

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

**Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail the incarnate Deity.
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel. [Refrain]**

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "O Calypso Town of Bethlehem" - arr. by Tim Strang
Bill Crouch and Tim Strang, piano

"People Look East," Words Eleanor Farjeon. © David Higham Assoc., Ltd. Reprinted with permission under CHRISTIAN COPYRIGHT SOLUTIONS LICENSE #11503. All rights reserved.

Besancon - People look east - harmonization - Martin Shaw, Music - ©1928 Oxford University Press. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-715458. All rights reserved.

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

WE'RE GLAD THAT YOU HAVE JOINED US FOR WORSHIP THIS MORNING. We are putting the safety of both the vaccinated and the unvaccinated in our congregation and the community first. Masks are required for all people in all parts of the building. We will keep social distance in the pews. While there is no coffee hour, worshippers may talk with each other in Rockwood Hall as they leave.

WE ARE NOW LIVE STREAMING 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 will be the same each week.

RECORDINGS OF THE WORSHIP SERVICES are posted on Sunday afternoon at <https://vimeo.com/channels/1547852>. The recordings remain up permanently, so you can watch past worship services at your convenience or recommend them to a friend.

FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP SERVICES—If you would like to contribute flowers for the worship services on upcoming Sundays please call the office to let Jenn know or sign up on the sheet in Rockwood Hall.

IF YOU FEEL COMFORTABLE GREETING OR USHERING ON SUNDAY MORNING, please contact the church office at 319-337-4301.



Want to give online? Scan the QR code for our giving app.

ALTERNATIVE GIVING

In anticipation of Christmas, the Mission Board has organized our annual Alternative Giving opportunities. Tree tags for the Salvation Army Angel Tree are available. Gifts for Kids will need to be returned to the church by December 12.

Project Holiday tree tags/envelopes are also available. This is the CommUnity annual holiday food distribution. Donations will be mailed by the donor, and need to be received at CommUnity by December 12.

Mission Board members will take orders for Heifer Project gifts after church on December 5 and December 12. Payments by check will be received, and Ginny Clemmons will personalize gift cards that can be mailed by the purchaser. The catalog can be seen here: <https://www.heifer.org/gift-catalog/index.html>

LOOK AHEAD TO ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

Like everything else, our Advent preparations and Christmas celebrations are expected to be different this year. We are still in the process of creating inspiring and joy-filled events. Here are some dates to keep in mind.

December 5—Second Sunday in Advent; Children's Pageant

December 12— Third Sunday in Advent; Special Music Sunday—*Gloria* by John Rutter

December 16—Winter Solace Service—7:00 p.m.

December 19—Fourth Sunday in Advent.

Christmas Eve is Friday, December 24. Two services at 5:00 and 7:00 p.m.

Stewardship Is Heart Work: Pledge/estimate of giving cards for 2022 have been sent out. If you have not received one, please contact the church office. If you have received a card, please prayerfully fill it out and return it to the church as soon as possible. 2021 has been filled with many challenges and we have responded faithfully and with a generous compassion. We anticipate more challenges in 2022. Your deeply considered, prayerful support will help us to continue our Church's mission in downtown Iowa City and around the world. Thanks again for your generous giving.

GIVING UPDATES AVAILABLE: If you have any questions about your giving to the church or if you would like an update on your giving, please call the church office (337-4301) or email our Office Manager, Jenn Harden at uccicadmin@uccic.org.

A new Bible Study has begun. We're looking at the scripture lessons—primarily from the Old Testament—that are used in the Christmas section of Handel's *Messiah*. The sessions will be held on Zoom at 7:00 p.m.—no parking worries! The next session will be on Wednesday, December 8. If you are interested or want more information, please talk with Bill Lovin.

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 worship on Christmas Eve. Please remember that your generous contributions can and do make a difference in the lives of many people.