



"Departure of the Magi"—Allan Crite

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

WORSHIP FOR JANUARY 5, 2024  
EPIPHANY SUNDAY

*Today is a communion Sunday. If you are joining us online, you are invited to get whatever you eat and whatever you drink before the beginning of worship. It can be bread and grape juice or wine or as simple as a cracker or rice cake and water for use in our worship.*

“We must adjust to changing times and still hold to unchanging principles.”

Jimmy Carter

PRELUDE “We Three Kings of Orient Are” Janet Linker

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS John Fieselmann, Liturgist

CHORAL INTROIT

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Where silence and shadow linger,

**arise, shine, for the light has come.**

Where sadness and fear remain,

**the glory of the Lord has risen upon us.**

Let us gather together.

Let us rejoice and give thanks.

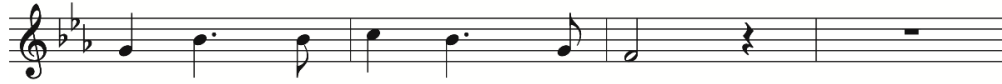
**Let us be radiant; let our hearts thrill and rejoice.**

**Let us worship God.**

\*HYMN (insert) "Hark the Herald Angels Sing/Jesus the Light of the World" (vs. 1-3)



1. Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing.  
 2. Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise.  
 3. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored.  
 4. Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace.



Je - sus, the light of the world.



Glo - ry to the new - born King,  
 Join the tri - umph of the skies.  
 Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
 Hail the Sun of Right - eous - ness!



Je - sus, the light of the world. We'll walk in the



light, beau - ti - ful light. Come where the



dew - drops of mer - cy shine bright. Oh, shine all a -



round us by day and by night. Je - sus, the light of the world.

Text: George D. Elderkin; verses by Charles Wesley, 1707-1788  
 Tune: WE'LL WALK IN THE LIGHT, 7 7 7 7 with refrain; George D. Elderkin; arr. by Evelyn Simpson-Curenton, b.1953, © 2000,  
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\*OPENING PRAYER

**O God of splendor and majesty, we confess our poor sense of vision.  
 Confused and easily distracted, we forget to look up at the world around us.**

**In this very moment the star still beckons.**

**Let us, like the magi, follow the light as it falls on the simple yet extraordinary places of our world.**

**Let it lead us to find new paths of healing and restoration as we discover again our sense of discipleship. Amen.**

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

**Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace.  
Jesus, the light of the world.  
Hail, the Sun of righteousness!  
Jesus, the light of the world.  
We'll walk in the light, beautiful light.  
Come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright.  
Oh, shine all around us by day and by night.  
Jesus, the light of the world.**

ANTHEM "In the Bleak Midwinter" arr. Andy Beck

SERVICE OF GIVING

Invitation

Offertory "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright," Op. 135a, No. 29 Max Rege

\*Response (#63)

**As with gladness sages bold  
did the guiding star behold;  
as with joy they hailed its light,  
leading onward, beaming bright,  
so, true Morning Star, may we  
evermore your splendor see.**

**As they offered gifts most rare  
at that manger plain and bare,  
so may we with holy joy,  
pure and free from sin's alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to you from whom they spring.**

\*Prayer of Dedication

SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 60:1-6

PSALM 72:1-13

Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to the king's heir;

**to rule your people righteously  
and the poor with justice;**

that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,  
and the little hills bring righteousness.

**He shall defend the needy among the people  
and shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.**

He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure,  
from one generation to another.

**He shall come down like rain upon the mown field,**

**like showers that water the earth.**

In his time shall the righteous flourish;  
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

**The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute,  
and the rulers of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.**

All kings shall bow down before him,  
and all the nations do him service.

**For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress,  
and the oppressed who has no helper.**

[Unison]

**He shall have pity on the lowly and poor  
and shall preserve the lives of the needy.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON      Matthew 2:1-12

SERMON      “By a Different Way”

THE LORD’S SUPPER

INVITATION

HYMN 506      “Deck Yourself, My Soul with Gladness” (vs. 1 & 2)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

REMEMBERING AND GIVING THANKS

Now, we remember Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.  
He took his place among us as one with human frailty.

**We remember that he called disciples and ministered to all.**

**He confounded the haughty and gave hope to the poor.**

**He ate with sinners and fed the multitude.**

On the night of his arrest...

SHARING OF ELEMENTS

(Communion will be served in the pews today. Please receive the bread or cup as they are offered to you by a deacon. Hold it until all have been served, and we will eat and drink together at the pastor’s guidance. We serve grape juice, not wine. Gluten-free wafers are on the trays with the bread. In the Congregational United Church of Christ, we celebrate the Lord’s Supper with openness and welcome. Everyone is invited to the table, regardless of church membership or denominational affiliation.)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**O God, who in Jesus called us out of shadows  
into wondrous light,**

**may we always declare your merciful deeds.**

**Give us courage and conviction,**

**that we may turn and follow you,  
led by the light that shines  
through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**\*HYMN 411 “Arise, Your Light Is Come!”**

**Arise, your light has come!  
The Spirit’s call obey;  
show forth the glory of your God  
which shines on you today.**

**Arise, your light has come!  
Fling wide the prison door;  
proclaim the captive’s liberty,  
good tidings to the poor.**

**Arise, your light has come!  
All you in sorrow born,  
bind up the brokenhearted ones  
and comfort those who mourn.**

**Arise, your light has come!  
The mountains burst in song!  
Rise up like eagles on the wing,  
God’s power will make us strong.**

**\*BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE**

**POSTLUDE “O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright”**

**Mark Sedio**

Cover Artist: Allan Rohan Crite (1910-2007) was an extremely versatile, productive, generous, and religious artist. Art historian Regenia A. Perry called him "an artist with few peers among his generation" and he was affectionately known as the dean of African American artists in New England. Crite called himself a liturgical artist. He was a pioneering figure in the practice of representing Christian figures as black or Latino in American art. He wanted his art to be accessible. He regularly provided illustrations for church bulletins for Episcopalian churches at his own expense. He is widely represented in major museums, including the Stanley Art Museum. Robin Thomas-Lovin had the honor and privilege of working along side him at the Harvard Extension Library. He was a kind and gentle person who was more interested in seeing the people around him than having other people know how important he was. For more information see <https://ncaaa.org/museum/collections-exhibitions/alan-crite/>.

“Jesus, the Light of the World / We'll Walk in the Light,” Music: Evelyn Simpson-Curenton  
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Remembering and Giving Thanks: First Church, Congregational, Cambridge, MA, adapted.

Minister:	The Rev. Bill Lovin
Director of Christian Education:	Hope Spragg
Organist:	Bill Crouch
Choir Director	Dr. Chris Nakielski
Children's Choir Director	Majesty Constable
Office Manager	Jenn Harden

TODAY

- ❖ Choral Ensemble Rehearsal 9:00 am
- Christian Education 9:15 am
- Worship Service 10:15 am

TUESDAY

- ❖ Board of Christian Education 7:00 pm
- Mission Board 7:00 pm

NEXT SUNDAY

- ❖ Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am
- 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.

**TODAY IS EPIPHANY SUNDAY.** Epiphany, marking the revelation of Jesus to the Gentiles and the coming of the Magi, always falls 12 days after Christmas. We are celebrating this morning, bringing our observance of Christmas to a conclusion and hearing the story of the Magi from the Gospel of Matthew. We will also share in the sacrament of communion.

**THE MISSION BOARD ANNUAL ALTERNATIVE GIVING FAIR** was a great success – due to you, our buyers, sellers, and volunteer church members. Thank you to the creative people who offered their work: Jo Benda, Robin Chambers, Martha Ann Crawford, and Hope Spragg. Thank you to Kathy Fait and John Fuller for continuing their Share the Harvest through a cold autumn season. Thank you to Ginny Clemons for her lovely calligraphy on the Heifer cards. Thank you to our other volunteers at the tables: Chuck Dayton, Jane Kinney, Linda Muston, and Julie Wittig. And a big thank you to John and Sharyn Reitz for coordinating all of this. The result? We sent over \$3,250 to the Heifer Project, exceeding all previous years, and \$382 to Church World Service. Locally, we sent \$820 from the craft sales and \$1051.95 from Share the Harvest to the CommUnity Food Bank, and \$257.50 to the Immigrant Welcome Network – a total of \$4,636.45 going out into the community and the larger world.

**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 14<sup>th</sup> 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.

**ADULT EDUCATION NEXT SUNDAY: Free Medical Clinic**—Join us around the fireplace in Rockwood Hall at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday, January 12, to learn about the Free Medical and Dental Clinic. The Clinic strives to provide the widest range of medical and dental services possible to people in the Iowa City and surrounding community who would not otherwise have access to care.

Each year in January and February, our Mission Board plans Sunday morning Adult Education sessions that give us a chance to learn about the work that we are doing in our community and in the larger world. This year the Mission Board is helping us develop closer relationships with some of the Iowa City area organizations that we support. Join us each Sunday through February 23 in Rockwood Hall at 9:15 a.m. And because Lent starts so late this year (Ash Wednesday is March 5), there will be a special bonus session on Sunday, March 2!

#### **WHAT'S IN STORE FOR THE IOWA LEGISLATURE THIS UPCOMING SESSION?**

The Mission Board LGBTQ Subcommittee is continuing the “We Are Still Learning” series Sunday, January 12, 2025. **Senator Zach Wahls** will give a preview of the upcoming state legislature session for everyone interested during an expanded coffee hour in Rockwood Hall at 11:30. Senator Wahls represents Senate District 43 which includes Coralville, North Liberty, Solon and part of western Iowa City and rural northeast Johnson County.

**THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST** will be held on Sunday, January 26, in the sanctuary, following our 10:15 worship service. We will receive reports of Boards and Committees, vote on the budget for 2025, and transact any other business that is fitting and necessary.

**HELP WITH SLEEPING MATS STILL NEEDED:** With our winter weather just around the corner, the need for more sleeping mats for the homeless is growing! By contributing your plastic bags from your purchases we can help the homeless! Bring your clean, unneeded, plastic grocery bags, or similar plastic bags from your purchases here, to Rockwood Hall. We will see to it that they are delivered.

**RESULTS OF THE FALL DIAPER DRIVE FOR COMMUNITY FOOD BANK:** Thanks to everyone who participated in the fall diaper drive for CommUnity Food Bank. Through your donations and efforts, over 2000 diapers and 40 packages of baby wipes were collected and delivered to the Food Bank. The church also received \$195 in donations that the Mission Board used to purchase additional diapers which helped extend our diaper deliveries into November and December. By supporting this drive, you made a difference in our community and in the lives of many local families in need.



**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.

**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 (319-337-4301) know right away. 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/1547852>. The recordings remain up permanently, so you can watch past worship services at your convenience or recommend them to a friend.

(the revelation of Jesus to the Gentiles, the coming of the Magi) with us on Sunday, January 5, 2025. 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.