

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
315 S. Moore Street – Algona, IA 50511  
December 24, 2019

### Christmas Eve Worship

This is a night of glorious appearances—a night of beauty and grace. So look to the heavens; look to the light; look to the love of God, and discover the magic of this miraculous night. Light in the darkness, angels in the heavens, a star in the sky, the greatness of God's presence.....

#### Welcome

**Lighting the Advent Candles** (bulletin insert) read responsively

#### Call to Worship (read responsively)

One: Sing a new song to God, as we join with the songs of old.

#### Many: Glory to God in the highest!

One: Sing with the heavenly angels, who rejoice with us on this holy night.

#### Many: Glory to God in the highest!

One: Sing a new song as we join with the songs of old.

#### Many: Glory to God in the highest! Let's worship

**\*Carol:** "O, Come, All Ye Faithful" #182

#### \*Invocation (read together)

**God of grace and glory, shine upon us as we reflect upon the shining light of your love. Reveal your presence here as we sing songs of the angelic chorus and hear words of prophets of old. Through your songs and stories, remind us of your Incarnate Love, born as a tiny child named Jesus. In the light of your glory and grace, we pray. Amen.**

**A Christmas Meditation** "What Does God Want for Christmas?"

#### Gathering Around the Christmas Communion Table

Invitation to the Table, Communion Prayer, Words of Institution, Blessing the Bread and Cup, Lord's Prayer (debts) Sharing the Bread and Cup

#### Prayer of Thanksgiving (read together)

**We give you thanks, God, that you have come to us through Jesus Christ, both in the midst of time and history in the city of Bethlehem, and in the timeless presence of his Spirit as we receive the gifts of bread and cup. Send us out into the world rejoicing, ready to share your love with the people we meet: through the grace of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

**Special Musical Offering** "Still, Still, Still"

#### The Story in Scripture and Song

**Carol:** "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" #191

#### Micah 5:2-5a

Carol- "O Little Town of Bethlehem" #180

#### Luke 1:26-38

Carol- "What Child Is This" # 184

#### Matthew 1:19-24a

Carol- "Angels, from the Realms of Glory" #189

#### Luke 2:1-7

Carol- "Away in a Manger" #203

#### Luke 2:8-20

Carol- "Joy to the World" #179

#### Celebrating the Light

**John 1:1-5, 14**

#### Lighting Our Candles

*As the first verse of Silent Night is sung, the ushers will come forward, light their candles and proceed up the aisles. Lit candles are held upright. Tilt your unlit candle to the lighted candle to light yours. After all candles have been lit, we will join together in singing the last two verses of Silent Night.*

Carol- "Silent Night" (on back of bulletin)

#### Benediction (read responsively)

One: Return to your homes glorifying God!

**Many: We will reenter our lives rejoicing in God's grace!**

One: Go tell the world all you have heard and seen.

**Many: We will go from this place rejoicing, sharing this great news with all we meet!**

**\*Carol-** "Joy to the World" #179

Welcome to this Christmas Eve celebration of Jesus' birth! May God's Spirit surround you here. May the hope, peace, joy, and love that Christ's birth brings dwell within you this day and throughout the coming year!

The service this evening includes gathering at Jesus' table to share the communion meal. Everyone is welcome at Jesus' table. The outer ring in all trays is grape juice. All other rings are wine. Please hold the bread and cup until all have been served so that we may eat together as one.

Thank you to Linnea Holmer, and Jeff, Meredith, Isaac, Julia, and Charlie Hines for sharing their musical gifts with us this evening.

Thank you to the Scuffham family for leading us in lighting the Advent candles and preparing and serving communion this evening.

All readings this evening are from the *Common English Bible*

The Call to Worship (adapted), Invocation (adapted), and Benediction (adapted) are from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2019* edited by Mary Scifres and B. J. Beu. The Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving is from "Flames of the Spirit" edited by Ruth C. Duck.

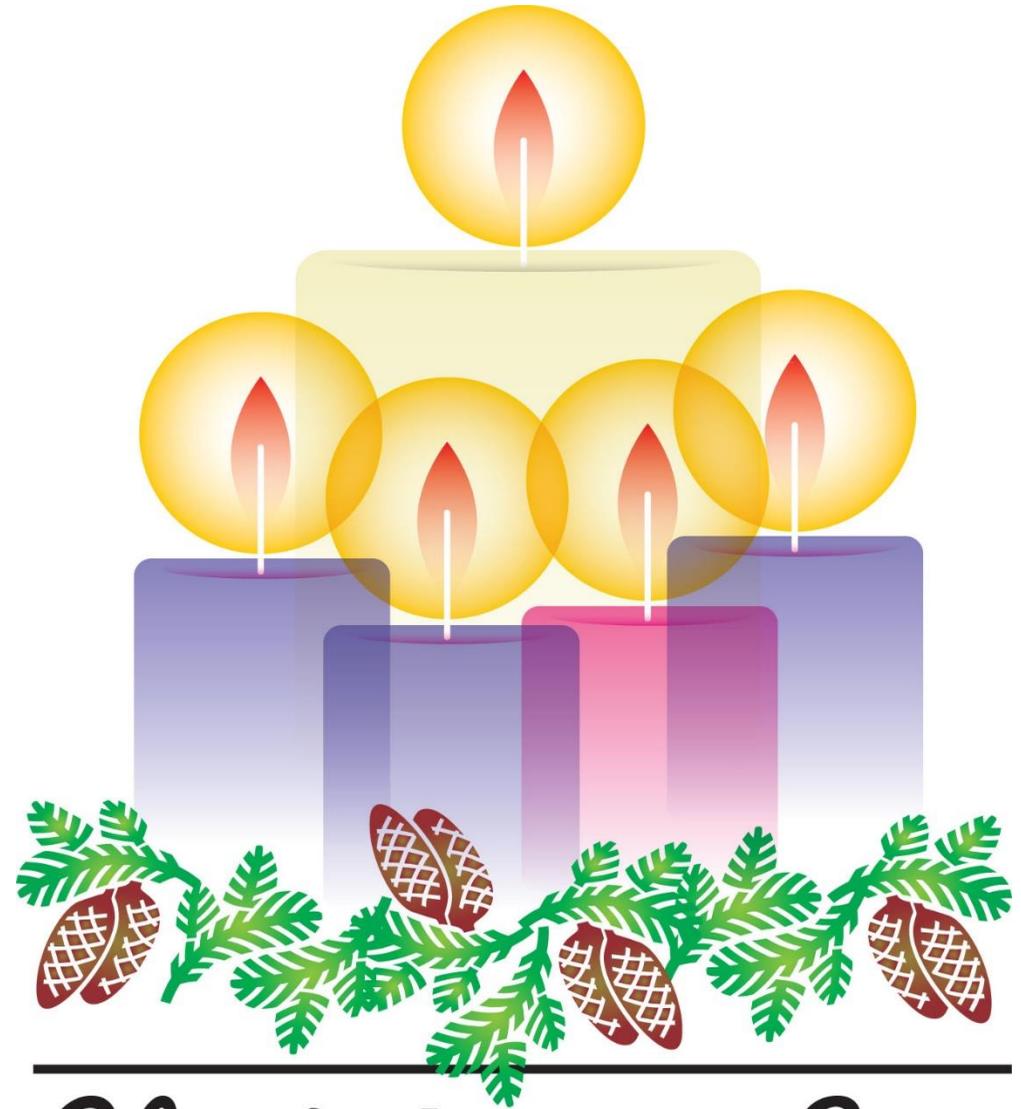
**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright.**

**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 host sing alleluia;  
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born.**

**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, Lord at thy birth.**



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*Christmas Eve*

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## CHRISTMAS EVE

Leader: We have watched; we have waited in hope.

People **We light the first candle with hope.** *(a candle is lit)*  
**We light the second candle with peace!** *(a candle is lit)*  
**We light the pink candle with joy.** *(the pink candle is lit)*  
**We light the fourth candle with love.** *(a candle is lit)*  
**Now our redemption draws near!** *(The Christ candle is lit.)*

Leader: Hear the Word of the God from Isaiah 9:2-7 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

*All: For a child has been born for us, a son is given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this. Glory to God in the highest! Alleluia! Amen!*

Office of Theology and Worship Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)



## Poinsettia

Misty Bachman

Pat Bilsborough

Gregg and Julie Buchanan

Ginny Buchanan

Scott and Sandy -Harmes  
Buchanan

David Burrow

Marilyn Deal

Rev. Chris and Pam Burtnett

Don and Becky Marine

Don and Kathryn Myers

Mick and Kris Schlievert

John and Helen Scuffham

The West and Bibler family

## Memorials

in loving memory of Olivia Bachman

in memory of loved ones

in memory of their parents

in memory of Russ

in memory of Burt and Lois Harmes and Russ Buchanan

in memory of George and Betty Burrow and Margaret  
Sullivan

for her family and in memory of her parents, Bob and  
Elaine Deal

in memory of loved ones

in memory of their parents and Olivia Bachman

We are grateful for everything

in memory of Mick's parents

in memory of their parents John and Mildred Scuffham  
and Joe and Edna Skow

in memory of Mary Ellen and Eric Lee West