

First Congregational United Church of Christ
315 S. Moore Street – Algona, IA 50511
December 24, 2020

Christmas Eve Worship

God rest ye little children; let nothing you affright; For Jesus Christ, your Savior, was born this happy night; Along the hills of Galilee, the white flocks sleeping lay, When Christ, the child of Nazareth was born on Christmas Day. *Christmas Carol, stanza 2, by Dinah Maria Mulock Craik*

Welcome

Lighting the Advent Candles

read responsively

One: We have watched; we have waited in this Advent Season. We lit the candle of hope.

We lit the candle of peace. We lit the candle of joy. We lit the candle of love.

Many: Now our redemption draws near!

One: Holy One, we give you thanks for your presence among us in Jesus, your Child, born into a poor family. He has entered our lives, and embraced our hope and our struggle; showing forth the power of your love in healing, teaching and challenging the powers of the world that lead to death. With confidence in your faithfulness, we welcome your beloved Child in our midst.

People: God be with us in the Light of Christ. (*Light your Christ candle.*)

Call to Worship (read responsively)

Leader: In the beginning, there was the Word;

People: the Word was in God's presence, and the Word was God.

Leader: The Word was present to God from the beginning. Through the Word all things came into being.

People: In the Word was life, and that life was humanity's light- -

Leader: And the Word became flesh and stayed for a little while among us;

People: we saw the Word's glory—

Leader: the favor and position of a Parent's only Child—

People: filled with grace, filled with truth.

Together: Let us rejoice in the Word!

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

***Invocation** (read together)

O Word made Flesh, you have come into our midst as light and wisdom, desiring to be known to us in our lives and to be found in the world around us. Open our eyes, our ears, and our hearts

to recognize you where you dwell—in our midst—challenging, heartening, lighting the way to truth, peace, justice and love. Amen.

A Christmas Meditation "In a Time Such as This"

Special Musical Offering

The Christmas Story in Scripture and Song

Carol: "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" #191 (verses 1 & 3)

Micah 5:2-5a

Carol- "O Little Town of Bethlehem" #180 (verses 1&4)

Luke 1:26-38

Carol- "What Child Is This" # 184 (verses 1 & 3)

Matthew 1:19-24a

Carol- "Angels, from the Realms of Glory" #189 (verses 1 & 4)

Luke 2:1-7

Carol- "Away in a Manger" #203 (verses 1 & 2)

Luke 2:8-20

Carol- "Angels We Have Heard on High" #188 (verses 1 & 3)

Celebrating the Light

Lighting Our Candles

Leader: Hear the Word of 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. 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!

(U.S.A.)

Office of Theology and Worship Presbyterian Church

Please light your candle. We will sing all three verses of Silent Night.

Carol- "Silent Night" #186

Benediction (read responsively)

One: In the beginning, the Word;

Many: the Word was in God's presence, and the Word was God.

One: The Word was present to God from the beginning.

Many: Through the Word all things came into being....

One: In the Word was life, and that life was humanity's light-

Many: a Light that shines in the night, a Light that the night has never overtaken.

One: Go forth to witness to the Light, to the Word, to the Glory of God dwelling in us;

Many: We will go forth to live in grace and truth.

*Carol-"Joy to the World" #179

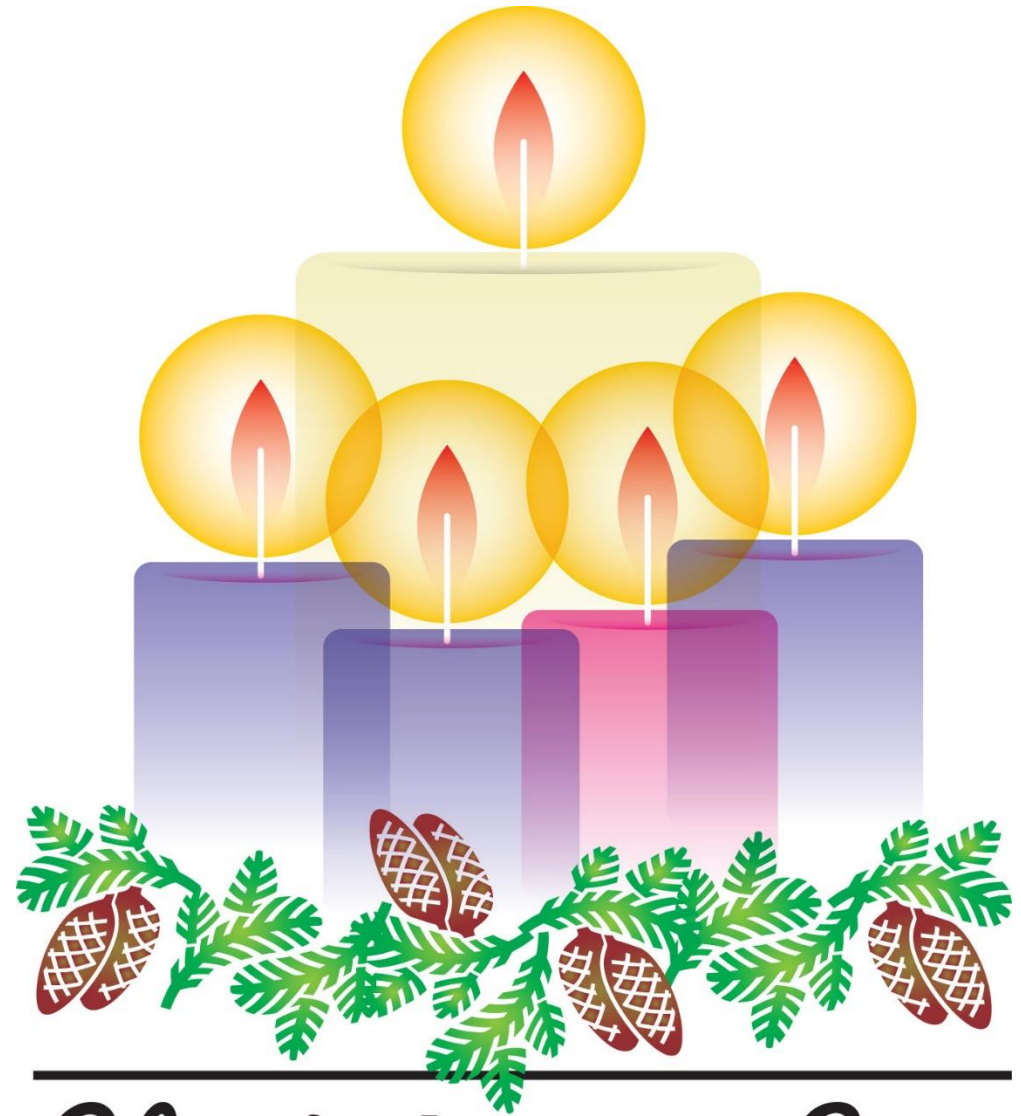
Welcome to this Christmas Eve celebration of Jesus' birth! May God's Spirit surround you wherever you are. May the hope, peace, joy, and love that Christ's birth brings dwell within you this day and throughout the coming year!

Thank you to Liz Reynolds and Corbin Fehr for sharing their musical gifts with us this evening.

Also, thank you to David Burrow for sharing his time to help record this evening and his help in the readings.

All scripture readings are from the *Common English Bible*

The Christ Candle lighting liturgy (adapted), Call to Worship, Invocation, and Benediction are from *Worship Ways- Worship resources for the United Church of Christ.*



Christmas Eve
