

First Congregational United Church of Christ
315 S. Moore Street – Algona, IA 50511
Christmas Eve
December 24, 2021

Christmas Eve Worship

A child cries out. New life begins. Hope is born. And light shines forth for all to see!

Welcome

Lighting the Advent Candles

One: Tonight, is the night for which we have been waiting. The Advent wreath is completed with the Christ candle in the center. “For unto us a child is given, unto us a Savior is born and the order of the world will be upon his shoulders.” With the birth of Christ our lives are centered, focused, turned toward God. We light this candle because Christ is the center of our lives.

(the white candle is lit)

Prayer

Dear God, who comes to us in Jesus, on this night as we celebrate his birth, let the power of Christ come into our hearts that we might find peace with you forever. Amen.

Call to Worship

One: Rejoice and sing!

Many: A child is born!

One Sing songs of praise!

Many: For the Prince of Peace is in our midst!

One: Rejoice and Sing!

Many: Christ is born! Hallelujah! Amen!

***Carol** “O, Come, All Ye Faithful” #182

***Invocation** (read together)

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, be born in our hearts this night. Shine your light into the darkness of our world, that all the earth might know your glorious presence and all people might find hope in your love and grace. In your glorious name, we pray. Amen.

A Christmas Meditation “Christmas is for Children”

The Christmas Story in Scripture and Song

Carol “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear” #191

From You Little Bethlehem - Micah 5:2-5a

Carol “O Little Town of Bethlehem” #180

You’re Going to Have a Son - Luke 1:26-38

Carol “What Child Is This” # 184

Don’t Be Scared! Trust God! - Matthew 1:19-24a

Carol “Angels, from the Realms of Glory” #189

Jesus Is Born - Luke 2:1-7

Carol “Away in a Manger” #203

Wonderful News! - Luke 2:8-20

Carol “Angels We Have Heard on High” #188

Gathering at the Christmas Communion Table

Invitation, Communion Prayer, Sanctus, Words of Institution, Consecration Prayer, Lord’s Prayer, Sharing the Bread and Cup

Sanctus

Gloria! Gloria! In Excelsis deo! Creation joins in the angelic chorus of joy! Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the One born this night for us. Hosanna in the highest!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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 “Mary Did You Know” Liz Reynolds & Corbin Fehr

Celebrating the Light

Lighting Our Candles Isaiah 9:2-7

Please light your candle from the lighted candle of the person next to you. Tip your unlit candle to the upright lit candle.

Carol “Silent Night” #186

Benediction (read responsively)

One: Go forth and shine light in the darkness. Go and bring peace into our troubled world.

Many: We go to proclaim hope in the midst of despair.

One: Go with God's blessings....

Many: For a child has been born to us, who is Love for the nations and light for the world!

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

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Welcome to this Christmas Eve Candlelight 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!

We will celebrate the Sacrament of Communion this evening. **Everyone** is welcome at The Table! The outer ring in each tray is grape juice, the inner rings are wine.

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

All Christmas story scripture readings are from the *Sparks Story Bible*. The Candle Lighting scripture reading is from the *Good News Bible*

The Christ Candle lighting liturgy (adapted) is by Cyril C. Colonius from *Touch Holiness-Resources for Worship* edited by Ruth C. Duck and Maren Tirabassi. The Call to Worship, Invocation, and Benediction (adapted) are by Mary Scifres from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2021* edited by Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu. The Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving is by Rebecca A. Ferguson and Ruth C. Duck from *Flames of the Spirit-Resources for Worship Like Bread for the Journey* edited by Ruth C. Duck.



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP
First Congregational United Church of Christ
7 PM

Poinsettia

Ginny Buchanan

Scott and Sandy-Harmes Buchanan

David Burrow

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Rev. Chris and Pam Burtnett

Marilyn Deal

Don and Becky Marine

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Don and Becky Marine

Kathryn Myers

Larry and Sandy Person

Mick and Kris Schlievert

Mick and Kris Schlievert

John and Helen Scuffham

Todd and Shelly TerHark

Charles West Family

Memorials

In memory of Russ Buchanan

in memory of Gregg and Julie Buchanan

In memory of George and Betty Burrow

In memory of Margaret Sullivan

In memory of loved ones

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

In memory of their parents

In memory of Olivia Bachman

In loving memory of Donald Myers

In the memory of Judy Boyd

In memory of Charles and Helen Schlievert

In memory of Betty Wilcox

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

In memory of Larry TerHark

In memory of Mary Ellen and Lee West



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