

First Congregational United Church of Christ
315 S. Moore Street – Algona, IA 50511
Christmas Eve
December 24, 2022

Christmas Eve Worship

This is Christmas: not the tinsel, not the giving and receiving, not even the carols, but the humble heart that receives anew the wondrous gift, the Christ. – Frank McKibben

Welcome

Lighting the Advent Candles

One: For unto us a child is born! Unto us a Son is given!

All: We are overwhelmed with joy!

One: God brings us hope in the Christ Child!

Many: We celebrate the birth of love!

(All five candles are lit)

One: Tonight, we light all five candles: the candles of hope, peace, joy, love and tonight's candle, the Christ candle. All five together represent God's constant and continuing flame of love in the world. Let's worship, confident that, like these candles, God's presence is with us.

Call to Worship

(read responsively)

One: Sing, choirs of angels!

Many: Sing in exaltation!

One: Let the shepherds in the fields rejoice!

Many: Let the stars in the sky worship the newborn king!

One: For heaven has come down to earth!

Many: Salvation has come to our homes this day!

One: Sing, choirs of angels!

Many: Sing in exaltation!

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

***Invocation** (read together)

God of love, choirs of angels sang to your glory on the night of Jesus's birth. Open our mouths to sing your praise, this evening, that we might join the heavenly chorus. As the shepherds left their sheep in the fields may we leave our cares behind, that we too may find the hope of our salvation in the Christ child. On this most holy of nights, may our worship befit the Prince of Peace, who came to show us the depths of your love. Amen.

Special Musical Offering

A Christmas Meditation "Living In The Moment"

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.

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

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: Walk in darkness no longer.

Many: We will walk in the light of Christ!

One: Sing of Christ's birth with choirs of angels!

Many: We will sing with the heavenly host!

One: Go and proclaim the good news!

Many: Jesus Christ is born!

*Carol "Joy to the World" #179

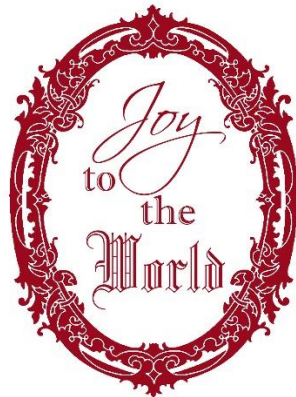
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Welcome to this Christmas Eve Candlelight celebration of Jesus' birth! May God's Spirit surround you wherever you are. May the hope, peace, joy, and love that Christ's birth brings dwell within you this day and throughout the coming year!

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 to Vicki Merchlewitz for sharing her musical gifts with us this evening.

The Christmas story scripture readings and Isaiah reading this evening are from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible.

The Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy is from the 2022 *Christmas Fund Worship Resources*. The Call to Worship, Invocation, and Benediction are by B.J. Beu from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2022* 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 CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP

First Congregational United Church of Christ

6 PM

Poinsettia

Ginny Buchanan

Scott and Sandy-Harmes
Buchanan

David Burrow
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Rev. Chris and Pam Burtnett

Marilyn Deal

Phil Heath

Don and Becky Marine
Don and Becky Marine

Kathryn Myers
Larry and Sandy Person

Mick and Kris Schlievert
Mick and Kris Schlievert
John and Helen Scuffham

Connie Schwab

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 and Brian Sullivan

In memory of loved ones

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

In memory of Holly Filson-Heath

In memory of their parents
In memory of Olivia Bachman

In loving memory of Donald Myers
In the memory of Holly Filson Heath and Dennis
Schwab

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

Two poinsettias in memory of my husband Dennis

In memory of Larry TerHark
In memory of Mary Ellen and Eric Lee West



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