

First Congregational United Church of Christ
315 S. Moore Street – Algona, IA 50511
Christmas Eve
December 24, 2024

*“Christmas began in the heart of God.
It is complete only when it reaches the heart of humankind.”*

Welcome

Lighting the Advent Candles (read responsively)

One: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. The light has shined on those who lived in the land of the shadow of death.

Many: Sing to the Lord a new song! Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord and bless his name!

One: He has lifted the heavy burden and broken the sword of oppression. The weapons used for battle will be burned up as fuel for the fire.

Many: Proclaim his salvation from day to day! Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples.

One: For a child is born to us. A son is given to us; and the government will be on his shoulders. His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Many: The Lord made the heavens and the earth. Honor and majesty are before him. Strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

One: His Kingdom of righteousness and peace will have no end. David’s throne will be upheld in righteousness from this time on and forevermore.

Many: Bring an offering, and come into his courts. Worship the Lord in holiness. Tremble before him, all the earth. Say among the nations, “God reigns.”

One: The Lord has come to judge the earth in righteousness and truth.

Many: Come, let us adore him! *(The Christ Candle is lit)*

Carol “O, Come, All Ye Faithful” #182

***Invocation** (prayed together)

Holy God, help us pause in the midst of our busyness. Quiet our minds on this Christmas Eve, that we may hear the good news of your gift of Jesus-your gift to a world so in need of peace, justice and joy. If we walk in darkness and despair, help us see the great light of your presence. If we wait in hope for the coming of Christ, help us offer hope to those around us. Help us see your glory breaking into our lives, as Mary and shepherds before us saw. In the quiet of this night, may we welcome your peace and favor through Jesus our Messiah. Amen.

A Christmas Meditation “The Christmas Angle”

Carol: “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear” #191

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

But 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 1:18-24a

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 (Verses are printed on the insert of the bulletin)

Benediction (read responsively)

One: Let us go from this place,

Many: to join the angels in singing of God’s glory and grace.

One: Let us go to share the good news,

Many: that Jesus, the brother of the vulnerable and forgotten is in our midst still.

One: Let us go to offer peace and goodwill to everyone,

Many: joining the Spirit in telling of all we have seen and heard.

***Carol: “Go, Tell It on the Mountain” #179**

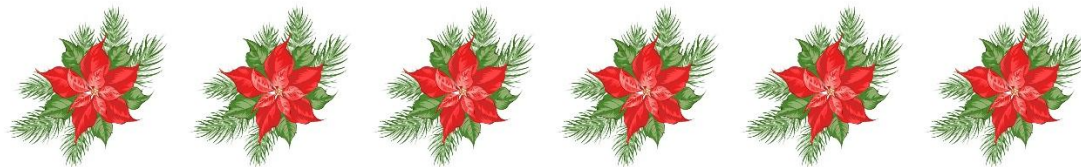
Welcome to this Christmas Eve Candlelight celebration of Jesus’ birth! May God’s Spirit surround you in this place. May the hope, peace, joy, and love that Christ’s birth brings dwell within you this day and throughout the coming year!

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.

A very big THANK YOU to Holly Lang for sharing her musical gifts with us this evening.

All scripture readings this evening are from *The New King James Version* of the Bible.

The Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy (adapted) is prepared by the Office of Spiritual Life of United Theological Seminary. The Invocation (adapted) is by Amy B. Hunter from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2023* 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. The Benediction if by Thom M> Shuman from his *Lectionary Liturgies* blog. The quote at the top of the bulletin is adapted from the *Religious Telescope* magazine of the United Church of the Brethren.



Silent Night

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 hosts 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 dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth.



Silent Night

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 hosts 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 dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth.



Poinsettia

Dave and Becky Bibler

Ginny Buchanan

Scott and Sandy-Harmes
Buchanan

David Burrow

David Burrow

David Burrow

Rev. Chris and Pam Burtnett

Phil Heath

Don and Becky Marine

Don and Becky Marine

Kathryn Myers

Larry and Sandy Person

Mick and Kris Schlievert

Mick and Kris Schlievert

Helen Scuffham

Helen Scuffham

Memorials

In memory of the West Family: Chuck,
Mary Ellen and Lee

In memory of Russ Buchanan

In memory of Gregg and Julie
Buchanan

In memory of George and Betty Burrow

In memory of Nancy Burrow

In memory of Margaret and Brian
Sullivan

In memory of loved ones

In memory of Holly Filson-Heath

In memory of their parents

In memory of Olivia Bachman

In loving memory of Donald Myers

In memory of Marjorie Person

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 John



Poinsettia

Dave and Becky Bibler

Ginny Buchanan

Scott and Sandy-Harmes
Buchanan

David Burrow

David Burrow

David Burrow

Rev. Chris and Pam Burtnett

Phil Heath

Don and Becky Marine

Don and Becky Marine

Kathryn Myers

Larry and Sandy Person

Mick and Kris Schlievert

Mick and Kris Schlievert

Helen Scuffham

Helen Scuffham

Memorials

In memory of the West Family: Chuck,
Mary Ellen and Lee

In memory of Russ Buchanan

In memory of Gregg and Julie
Buchanan

In memory of George and Betty Burrow

In memory of Nancy Burrow

In memory of Margaret and Brian
Sullivan

In memory of loved ones

In memory of Holly Filson-Heath

In memory of their parents

In memory of Olivia Bachman

In loving memory of Donald Myers

In memory of Marjorie Person

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 John

