

December 24, 2014—Christmas Eve, 7:00 p.m.

Ames United Church of Christ

Prelude

***Call to Worship** “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” NCH 116

*O come, o come, Em-man-u-el, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely ex-ile here until the Child of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.*

***Greeting**

The grace of our Savior Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

***Opening Prayer**

***Gathering Song** “What Child Is This” NCH 148

Lesson One: Isaiah 11:1-10 *Vision of God’s Peaceable Reign*
Animals are placed in front of the stable.

In the peaceable reign of God, enemies become friends.

We will work for peace in our lives and in our world.

Carol “It Came upon the Midnight Clear” vv. 1, 3 & 4 NCH 131

Lesson Two: Isaiah 9:2-7 “*The People Who Walked in Darkness*”
The four colored candles of the Advent wreath are lighted.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

We will walk in the light of God.

***Carol** “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” NCH 144

Lesson Three: Luke 1:26-38 *The Angel’s announcement to Mary*

Lesson Four: Luke 1:46-55 *Mary responds with “The Magnificat.”*

Lesson Five: Matthew 1:18-25 *God speaks to Joseph in a dream.
The angel is placed above the stable.*

The Greek word for “angel” means “messenger.”

Like Mary and Joseph, we will open our ears to God’s message to us, and open our hearts to respond.

Anthem “The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”

Lesson Five: Luke 2:1-7 *The Savior is born.
The manger is brought in.*

There was no room in the inn for the weary travelers.

We will make room in our hearts for those in need.

Offering *The offering will go to the Emergency Residence Project,
giving shelter to those for whom there is no room in the inn.*

Carol “Away in the Manger” NCH 124

Lesson Six: Luke 2:8-14 *The Heavens Rejoice.
The children are invited to come forward and lay cloth in the manger.*

As the child was wrapped in bands of cloth, so we are wrapped in God’s love.

With grateful hearts, we will share that love with all.

***Carol** “Go, Tell It on the Mountain” NCH 154

Lesson Seven: John 1:1-14 *The Light shines in the darkness.
The Christ Candle is lighted.*

Christmas Meditation

***Carol** “Joy to the World” NCH 132

***Christmas Prayer**

***Sharing the Light of Christ**

***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! Child of God, love’s pure light
Radiant beams from your holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.***

***Christmas Blessing**

Postlude

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Worship Leaders

Interim Pastor Rev. Terry Hamilton-Poore

Choir Director: Lesley Lackore

Keyboardist: Karen Stewart

Scripture Readers: Lee Bauer, Allen Trenkle, Cornelia Flora, Jan Flora,
Ginny Shenk, Alison McHenry, Ed Goedeken,
Abby Buchele, Susan Jones, Sarah Fox-Jones.

Ushers: Nathan Hannover, Paul Lasley, Troy & Kris Strum

Prop Masters: Ryan Johnson and Ryan Strum

Lighting the Christ Candle: Martha Geist and Molly Fox

Angel and Animals created by Laurie Olk

UCC CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Thursday, Dec. 25

Christmas Day

Church Office Closed – Holiday

Friday, Dec. 26

Church Office Closed – Holiday

Saturday, Dec. 27

MOW: Chase

Sunday, Dec. 28

No Sunday School/No Learning Center

10:45a Worship: Poetry & Christmas Carols

Hannah Hannover, worship leader

No Youth Group

UCC CALENDAR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Come Explore Membership!

Are you interested in becoming a member, or just curious about what membership means in the UCC? Then come to this Membership Exploration Class! These classes will be an opportunity to learn about the church, get to know other newcomers as well as some long-time members, and come away with a clearer sense of your own spiritual journey. These classes truly are an *exploration*: you don't have to be ready to sign on the dotted line to attend! **Classes will be 12:00-1:00 p.m. on January 4, 11, and 18, with lunch and childcare provided.** We will meet in the Fellowship Hall. We hope you will come and explore with us!

The poinsettias decorating our church this Advent Season are donated by:

Judith Blair in memory of Harry W. Blair and Jeffrey A. Blair.

Martha Geist in memory of Maury Geist from the Geist family.

Nathan & Hannah, Will & Lucy Hannover in memory of Wayne William Hannover.

Del and Nancy Marks in memory of their parents.

Lowell Mathison in memory of Heather Lea Mathison.

Ruth Mortimer in memory of Randall Mortimer and the Mortimer Family.

Charles & Mary Mulford in memory of their parents.

Doug & Peg Powell in memory of their parents & grandparents, and for their dear friend, Susan Doyle.

Kristin, Jim and Kathryn Shields in memory of Michael Klein Sr. and Florence Dahlberg.

Bill & Sharron Slinger in memory of Karina Slinger—daughter, sister and aunt—celebrating her life and her Christmas Eve birthday.

Please pick up your poinsettia(s) after the service.