

December 12, 2021
Order of Worship
Grinnell United Church of Christ

As a safety precaution during COVID, please remain silent during the worship service (as in no congregant singing nor praying aloud). Thank you for helping to keep each other safe.

PRELUDE Two Settings on *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*, Plainsong melody
I. arr. John Sciveyner / II. arr. Lani Smith (both, Lorenz Pub. Co.)

INVOCATION

God comes! So don't let go of all the reasons to rejoice.
We will sing a song of Advent to the One who fills our lives with joy.

God comes! So don't stop lifting your prayers with thanksgiving.
We will sing a song of Advent, to the One who hears our words and silence.

God comes! So don't stop giving your hearts to God.
We will sing a song of Advent to the One who graces us with a peace
we cannot begin to understand.

WELCOME and PASSING OF THE PEACE

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!
The Peace of Christ be with you.... *(silently)* And also with you.

SCRIPTURE *Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7*

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

We light the third candle of Advent.

We look to John, the one you sent, to point us to your light. The light will come into our world and enlighten everyone.

God sent John the Baptizer to prepare the people for the coming of Jesus Christ, the true Light of the World. John called for people to repent of their sins and to live faithfully. He baptized with a cleansing water and proclaimed the new life that Christ, the one who would follow him, would bring. This Advent, we ask for God's mercy and a joyful new beginning.

Merciful God, we give thanks that you send messengers like John to call us to greater faith. We ask that in these days we prepare for you in prayer and acts of holy compassion. Forgive us and lead us to your light. Amen.

Shine on us, O God of justice; guide our path through gloom of night;
Bear within us Wisdom's glory; come to us, O Christ the Light.

HYMN NCH 102 *O How Shall I Receive You*

Words: Paul Gerhardt, 1653

Music: Melchior Teschner, 1615

1) O how shall I receive you, how meet you on your way,
blessed hope of every people, my soul's delight and stay?

O Jesus, Jesus, give me now by your own pure light,
to know whate'er is pleasing and welcome in your sight.

2) Love caused your incarnation; love brought you unto me;
your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.

O love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace
in love, all love excelling, our lost and fallen race.

3) You come, O Christ, with gladness, in mercy and goodwill,
to bring an end to sadness and bid our fears be still.

In patient expectation we live for that great day
when a renewed creation your glory shall display.

SERMON

Luke 3:7-18

SILENT REFLECTION

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

He did not wait till the world was ready, till men and nations were at peace.

He came when the Heavens were unsteady, and prisoners cried out for release.

He did not wait for the perfect time. He came when the need was deep and great.

He dined with sinners in all their grime, turned water into wine.

He did not wait till hearts were pure. In joy he came to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.

To a world like ours, of anguished shame he came, and his Light would not go out.

He came to a world which did not mesh, to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.

In the mystery of the Word made Flesh the Maker of the stars was born.

We cannot wait till the world is sane to raise our songs with joyful voice,

for to share our grief, to touch our pain, He came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!

LORD'S PRAYER (*Inclusive Version*) (*Please pray silently*)

Blessed One, our Father and our Mother

Holy is your name.

May your love be enacted in the world.

May your will be done

On earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread

And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us in the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For all that we do in your love,

and all that your love brings to birth,

and the fullness of love that will be

are yours, now and forever. Amen.

GRATITUDE FOR OFFERING / DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise God all creatures here below

Praise God above ye heavenly hosts

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost

HYMN NCH 104 *We Hail You God's Anointed*

Words: James Montgomery, 1821 / Music: German melody, 1784

1) We hail you God's anointed, the long-awaited One!

Hail in the time appointed, your reign on earth begun!

You come to break oppression, to set the captive free;

to take away transgression, and rule in equity.

2) You shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth;

and joy and hope, like flowers, spring in your path to birth.

Before you on the mountains shall peace, the herald, go,

and righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow.

3) The wise shall bow before you and gold and incense bring;

all nations shall adore you, and praise all peoples sing;

To you shall prayer unceasing and daily vows be said,

your realm is still increasing, with you, O Christ, as head.

4) O'er every foe victorious, you on your throne shall rest;

from age to age more glorious, all-blessing and all-blessed.

The tide of time shall never your covenant remove;

your name shall stand forever, your changeless name of love.

BENEDICTION

As the apostle Paul says in Philippians, “The Lord is near” (4:5).

We are witnesses of the dawning of that great light come into the world—*Immanuel*, God with us.

May we depart from this gathering with our faces set on the Sun,
so that our lives may serve as a reflection of God’s light,
so that our very lives may announce the advent of the Messiah. Amen.

POSTLUDE *Savior, of the Nations, Come*, arr. Johann Heinrich Buttstedt (1666-1727)

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Liturgists: Barbara and John Ashby

Treble Vocal Ensemble

Organist: Kenneth Davis

Pastor: Rev. Jessica Margrave Schirm

We give thanks to these helping hands who take turns throughout the month...

Mayflower Drivers: Rick Ramsey, George Britton, Denny Conway, Shane Estes

Chancel Flowers and Paraments: Sue Ramsey, Glenyce Conway, Karen Edwards, Sarah White, Olive Wright

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayflower Drivers Grinnell UCC is seeking one more Mayflower Driver to serve on a rotation once a month transporting Mayflower residents to and from church, picking them up at 10:15am at BeeBe circle and then driving them back after worship. Please contact Rick Ramsey at 990-0128 if you are able to help in this capacity. Thanks!

Christmas Pageant Our annual pageant is happening next Sunday, the 19th. Our regular Sunday School hour will be spent getting costumed up and ready to go. We will not need the full hour, so **our “call time” on December 19 is 10:00**. There will be nursery care available starting at 9:15, but older children who need to arrive prior to 10:00 should be prepared to bring a book or some homework.

Christmas Fund Special Offering of the UCC If you would like to contribute, please mail checks to Grinnell UCC with "Christmas Fund" in the memo line or drop them in the offering box. Visit www.christmasfund.org for more information on this offering of the UCC.

Christmas Eve Please join us on December 24th at 7pm for our annual Christmas Eve Service. We will worship, light candles, and sing Silent Night together. The service will also be live-streamed. Hope to see you there!

Worship Resources:

Invocation ~ ~ written by Thom Shuman, and posted on Lectionary Liturgies. <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.ca/>

Pastoral Prayer ~ Madeleine L’Engle, in *Cry Like a Bell*, 57. Posted on Growing in Grace.

<http://carolinemccain.wordpress.com>

Lord’s Prayer ~ Copyright © 2003 Richard D. McCall, posted on the Worship Well website.

Benediction ~ written by Isaac, a Mennonite pastor; posted on Rusty Parts. <http://www.rustyparts.com/>