



**GRINNELL**

*United Church of Christ  
Congregational*



**Christmas Eve**

**24 December 2021**

***To Grow in Love of God and Neighbor***

**[www.grinnellucc.org](http://www.grinnellucc.org)**

**Order of Worship**  
**Grinnell United Church of Christ**  
**Christmas Eve**

*As a safety precaution during COVID, please remain masked and silent during the worship service (as in no congregant singing nor praying aloud EXCEPT for Silent Night where you will be invited to sing with masks in place). Thank you for helping to keep each other safe.*

**PRELUDE** *Coventry Carol*, 16th century English  
*Beside Thy Cradle Here I Stand*, arr. J. S. Bach (1685-1750)  
*Now Sing We, All Rejoice!* arr. Friederich Wilhelm Zachau (1663-1712)

**INVOCATION**

We waited.  
And imagined a savior.  
We imagined power.  
One like the world but stronger  
and on our side.  
We imagined a king on a white horse wielding a sword.  
We got a baby born in a stable among the livestock.  
We imagined the work done for us  
through the destruction of our enemies.  
We receive a baby who will teach us our calling  
to seek reconciliation and to love expansively.  
Praise be to God for the unexpected babe of Bethlehem.  
Praise to the wisdom of love.  
Amen!

**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 62:6-12; Psalm 97*

**HYMN** *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Treble Vocal Ensemble

## **CHRIST CANDLE LIGHTING**

Rejoice, people of God! The light has come into the world.  
O God, now we light the candle of your nativity!

With the company of heaven and with sounds of great joy, you come to us.  
This is the time of light and resplendent joy.

The prophet Isaiah proclaimed a time when those who walked in the shadows would see a great light. A light would shine and a child would be born to us. The evangelist Luke painted the nativity sky and repeated the heavenly song of the angels, “Glory, peace on earth and goodwill!” John declared that this great light is Christ, the Word made flesh. This great light lives among us. By it we behold God’s glory—full of grace and truth. At Christ’s nativity, we now rejoice.

God, our Life and Light, thank you for coming to us. Thanks for touching all heaven and earth with your splendor. In every corner of the world, shine with your peace. In every corner of our hearts, shine with your grace.  
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.  
Glory be to God and peace on earth Christ is born! Alleluia!

**SERMON**                      Luke 2:1-20

## **SILENT REFLECTION**

**SPECIAL MUSIC** *O Holy Night*, Adolphe Adam (1803-1856)  
Erin Bustin, accompanied by Ian Moschenross

## **BENEDICTION**

## **WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD**

*Pastor Jessica will begin the candle lighting. Please pass the light from neighbor to neighbor by tipping the unlit candle into the flame –no need to tip the lighted candle.*

**HYMN** PH 138 *Silent Night*

*Please exit the building in silence.*

*Join us for Carols, Coffee & Cake on Sunday December 26<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30am.*

## **POINSETTIA DONORS**

Barbara & John Ashby  
**In loving memory of  
Manuel Medeiros**

Tommy Haas & Family  
**In loving memory of  
Dennis Haas & David Jordan-Haas**

Doug, Stuart, Rachel and Wendy Kintzinger & Family  
**In loving memory of  
Jewel Kintzinger, John Kintzinger, Burt Day,  
Katherine Kramer & Warren Kintzinger  
Lester & Evelyn Wendt**

Lyle Kuehl & Family  
**In loving memory of  
Judy Kuehl**

Gayle Strickler & Family  
**In loving memory of  
Lois Strickler**

## **WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS**

**Liturgists:** Henry Rietz and Sarah White

**Vocalists:** 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 Paraments:** Sue Ramsey, Glenyce Conway, Karen Edwards,  
Sarah White, Oliva Wright

## **WORSHIP RESOURCES**

**Invocation** ~ written by Tim Graves, and posted on his blog LiturgyBits: Little bits for worship.

<https://liturgybits.wordpress.com/>

**Candle lighting** ~ prepared by Sidney D. Fowler, minister for worship, liturgy, and spiritual formation, and Arthur Clyde, minister for worship, music, and liturgical arts, with the Worship and Education Ministry Team of Local Church Ministries in Cleveland, Ohio, United Church of Christ, [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org)