

Ankeny United Church of Christ

A welcoming church family

Exploring progressive Christian theology

Caring within and serving beyond

An Open And Affirming Church

January 2, 2022, 2nd Sunday after Christmas

**No matter who you are,
no matter where you are on life's journey,
you are invited and welcome here!**

2nd Sunday after Christmas

January 2, 2022

****Signifies the request to rise in body or spirit***

Gathering *(As we arrive to worship God, we greet new and old friends)
Children are invited to participate in our worship and welcome as loved, squirmy,
laughing, crying, children of God. A staffed nursery is also always available.*

Words of Welcome and Responsive Call to Worship

ONE: God is Great!

ALL: All of the Time!

ONE: Merry Christmas

ALL: For four more days!

ONE: In the name of God, our Creator, Christ, our Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit that
courses through our congregation,

ALL: Come and Worship!

****Passing of the Peace (We share the hope for peace with one another)***

Congregational Preparation: O Come and Let Us Sing to God

© Taizé, licensed by GIA Publications.. Reprinted with permission with OneLicense.net license A-726589

Venite, exultemus Domino

O come and let us sing to God

Taizé

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "O - come and let us sing to God - our hope. God's mer - cy is for ev - er. O God's mer - cy is for ev - er." The score includes a first ending bracket labeled "1." and a second ending bracket labeled "2.".

Following the silent prayer, we will sing again

Prayers of the People

Silent Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

Children's Sermon

As they gather, the congregation sings our welcoming song (tune 182)

Gath-er with us chil-dren e-v-ery-where, near and far where'er you be.

This is you-r own place of wel-l-come, it is you we lo-ng to see.

Scripture

Luke 2:25–38 (CEB)

A man named Simeon was in Jerusalem. He was righteous and devout. He eagerly anticipated the restoration of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. The Holy Spirit revealed to him that he wouldn't die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. Led by the Spirit, he went into the temple area. Meanwhile, Jesus' parents brought the child to the temple so that they could do what was customary under the Law. Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God. He said, "Now, master, let your servant go in peace according to your word, because my eyes have seen your salvation. You prepared this salvation in the presence of all peoples. It's a light for revelation to the Gentiles and a glory for your people Israel." His father and mother were amazed by what was said about him. Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "This boy is assigned to be the cause of the falling and rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that generates opposition so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your innermost being too." There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, who belonged to the tribe of Asher. She was very old. After she married, she lived with her husband for seven years. She was now an 84-year-old widow. She never left the temple area but worshipped God with fasting and prayer night and day. She approached at that very moment and began to praise God and to speak about Jesus to everyone who was looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

Sermon

Christmas Reactions

Pastor Nathan

Hymn

"Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire" attrib. to Hal H. Hopson

SPIRITUALITY

166 Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire

G Am7 G

1 Though I may speak with brav-est fire,
 2 Though I may give all I pos-ess,
 3 Come, Spir-it, come, our hearts con-trol,

G Em Am7 D

and have the gift to all in-spire,
 and striv-ing so my love pro-fess,
 our spir-its long to be made whole.

D G Am G

and have not love, my words are vain,
 but not be giv'n by love with-in,
 Let in-ward love guide ev-ery deed;

Am Dsus4 D C G

as sound-ing brass, and hope-less gain.
 the prof-it soon turns strange-ly thin.
 by this we wor-ship, and are freed.

Commissioning

(We share the church's actions in the world)

***Benediction**

***Benediction Response: #130 (black) From Heaven unto Earth I Come (v 4,5)**

My heart for ver-y joy now leaps; my voice no long-er si-lence keeps;

I too must join the an-gel throng to sing this joy-our cra-dle song.

"Glo-ry to God," the an-gels sing, "and peace on earth," let heav-en ring.

With voic-es raised we greet the birth: a glad new year to all the earth.

Postlude

You are a valued part of the family of God just as you are. We at Ankeny United Church of Christ celebrate the diversity our Creator has given all people. Our community is incomplete and broken when our siblings in Christ are excluded because of their sexual orientation, gender identity, physical ability, mental ability, race, age, nationality, faith background, relationship status, family structure, economic situation, or any of the numerous other aspects of identity that make us each who we are. Your differences make you unique and should be celebrated in God's family. You are wonderfully and purposefully made in the image of our Creator, and you have a place here in fellowship with other members of God's Church. This is a place where you can praise, question, worship, laugh, mourn, doubt, wonder, celebrate, and otherwise live as part of a community with other people seeking God and loving their neighbors. We the members of Ankeny UCC promise to affirm your worth as an individual and your place in our community. You are joyously welcomed to join us just as you are.

Church Activities:

Our full calendar is online at <http://www.ankenyuucc.org/anken-yucc-google-calendar>

Sunday

10:30am Worship

Monday

Sunday

10:30am Worship



Choir Director

Laura Beckwith

Accompanist

Paige Wonderly

Organist

Nancy Pingel

Cantor

Brad Church



Pastor

Nathan Willard

Office Manager

Garrison Hazen



office@ankenyuucc.org

pastor@ankenyuucc.org

(515) 964-4647



[ankenyuucc](https://www.facebook.com/ankenyuucc)



[@ankenyuucc](https://twitter.com/ankenyuucc)

Exploring Progressive Christian Theology:

Hope- Remembering Christmas Eve 1941 by Carl Krieg:

Woven into the fabric of the disturbing news that continually bombards us are those moments of humanity, mostly unreported, that tell us who we really are. Christmas Eve, 1914, an event happened along the Western Front that sets directly before us the wonder of the human spirit. Read on [here](#).

Caring Within:

Church Leaders

Thanks to everyone who has served the church in leadership over the past year, especially Judy Hines, Noah Tabor, Luke Schut, Anneke Schut, and Brad Church, who are all moving into a period of respite after their service.

A note on our worship:

In Ankeny UCC, we encourage the Holy Spirit to flow in our service to all who are called to be in this place. We encourage that through our use of Service Cards, collected on the way into the sanctuary. These worship tasks can be done by any person in our body (**Red cards** for reading, **White cards** for the advent wreath, **Blue cards** for acolytes and administrative duties). As we get our feet under us in our return to in-person worship, we have changed some of our practices for the time being, but are easing in on others.

We have limited our sanctuary capacity somewhat, and **we invite you and whoever you are worshiping with to space yourselves around our pews**. Due to the ongoing pandemic, please wear a mask during the service. **We are distributing communion on the way into the sanctuary**, rather than circulating and serving communion during the liturgy. Know that no matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, the table is set for you. Likewise, **we invite you to share any offerings you may have in the plates outside the doors to the sanctuary** as you exit. **As we wear masks, you are invited to sing along with our hymns** during the service.

If you collect a **Red Card**, you are invited to look over your reading, come to the front during the music before your reading, and invite the congregation into the reading by announcing where you can follow along in the bulletin, the title of your reading, and how to follow along (silently, responsively, or all together).

If you take the **Acolyte Card**, we invite you to take the candle-lighters in the back during the Prelude at the opening of the service, process down the center aisle with the flame held high, light the candles on the altar, and then return to the back. At the end of the service, take the candle lighters front again, light them from the altar, douse the altar candles, and process out bearing the light of Christ into the world. To put out the flame on the candle-holder, first blow it out, then retract the wick.