



Every  
heart  
prepare  
Him  
room

**Worship Service**  
**Participants**

*Ushers and Greeters*

***Worship Leader***  
Karen Dudgeon

***Liturgist***  
Ingrid Fox

***Acolytes***

***Flowers***  
The Gumaer Family,  
in honor of Larry V. Gumaer

***Nursery Volunteer***  
Carol Costell Corbin

***Fellowship***  
Joanne Cincotta

***Attendance***  
December 11: 78

**Life in the Parish**  
**Week of December 18**

**SUNDAY – December 18**

10:30 am – Worship  
*"Bethlehem's Child"*  
*Christmas Cantata*

**MONDAY – December 19**

7:30 pm – Al-Anon meets

**TUESDAY – December 20**

2:00 pm – Bridge Group  
6:30 pm – Trustees meet  
7:00 pm – Homer Brass rehearsal

**WEDNESDAY – December 21**

7:00 pm – Choir rehearsal

**THURSDAY – December 22**

9:30 am – Collating Committee  
11:30 am – Bible Study

**FRIDAY – December 23**

Office Closed

**SATURDAY – December 24**

6:00 pm – Dish-to-Pass Supper  
7:30 pm – Christmas Eve Worship

**SUNDAY – December 25**

10:30 am – Worship  
*Merry Christmas!*

## **Service of Worship**

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18, 2016

10:30 AM

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### ***FOR QUIET MEDITATION***

*In each heart lies a Bethlehem, an inn where we must ultimately answer whether there is room or not.*

*When we are Bethlehem-bound we experience our own advent in his. When we are Bethlehem-bound we can no longer look the other way conveniently not seeing stars, not hearing angel voices. We can no longer excuse ourselves busily tending our sheep or our kingdoms.*

*So this Advent let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that the Lord has made known to us. In the midst of shopping sprees let's ponder in our hearts the Gift of Gifts. Through the tinsel let's look for the gold of the Christmas Star. In the excitement and confusion, in the merry chaos, let's listen for the brush of angels' wings. This Advent, let's go to Bethlehem and find our kneeling places.*

by Ann Weems in Kneeling in Bethlehem

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\*those who are able, please stand.

## **GATHER AND PREPARE FOR WORSHIP**

### **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE**

*Sing We Now of Christmas*

Held

**CHIMES**

# THE PEOPLE OF GOD GATHER

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Lighting the Advent Candle – “Love”

One: The Season of Advent continues. We are a people of hope, peace, and joy.

*(first three candles lit)*

One: Today we celebrate the coming of Christ with the lighting of the candle of Love. *(fourth candle lit)*

**All: For God so loved the world that a child was given – God’s love in human form.**

One: No other word so adequately captures the spirit and goal of our faith. No other word so completely describes what we know of our God.

**All: We give thanks for that love and await the dawning of Christ in our midst.**

\*HYMN # 132 (vs. 4)

*When God Is a Child*

\*PRAYER OF LOVE *(let us pray together . . .)*

**Gracious God, you have shown us in your son the perfect expression of love. As we light this fourth candle of Advent, help us to let our light of love shine brightly through us that all may know of our peace, our hope, our joy, our love in Christ. Amen.**

\*WORDS OF GOD’S ENDURING LOVE

One: Friends, believe the joyful news that in Jesus Christ we are loved and forgiven.

**All: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## \*MUSICAL RESPONSE

## Glory to God

Capo 3: ( Bm ) (Em) (A) (D)  
Dm Gm C F (chords continue)



Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!  
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!



Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

*\*May be sung as a canon.*

(MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1979, Music ©1979, 1981 Les Presses de Taize admin.  
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## A POEM *First Coming* by Madeleine L'Engle

*He did not wait till the world was ready,  
till men and nations were at peace.  
He came when Heavens were unsteady,  
And prisoners cried out 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*

## LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

**OLD TESTAMENT** Isaiah 7:10-16 OT page 636

**THE GOSPEL** Matthew 1:18-25 NT page 1

## **CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

*(Children through 2nd grade may go to the nursery.)*

### **CANTATA**

*Bethlehem's Child Christmas Cantata*  
by Victor Johnson and Lloyd Larson  
organist, Jim Shultes  
pianists, Joe Ford and Andrea Herzog  
narrator, Bill Hopkins

Come and Worship  
Our Hope is in Emmanuel  
Waiting and Longing  
My Soul Does Magnify the Lord  
(soloists, Jim Ulrich and Barbara Wright)  
Run, Shepherds! (soloist Sheila Shea)  
Cradle Carol  
Bethlehem's Child

## **GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND**

### **\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

*(From *Lost in Wonder, Love & Praise* by John Killinger)*

**I believe that Christmas is more than a time for parties and ornaments; it is a time for remembering Christ and the incarnation of God's love in human flesh.**

**I believe there are gifts more important than the ones under the Christmas tree, such as the things we teach our children, the way we share ourselves with friends, and the industry with which we set about reshaping the world in our time.**

**I believe that the finest carols are often sung by the poorest voices, from hearts made warm by the wonder of the season.**

**I believe in the angels' message that we should not be afraid that the Child of Bethlehem is able to overcome all anxieties and insecurities.**

**I believe in prayer and quietness as a way of appropriating Christmas – that if I wait in silence I will experience the presence of the one born in the manger, for he lives today as surely as he lived then.**

**I believe in going away from Christmas as the wise men went – “another way.” I want to be different when these days are past – more centered, more thoughtful, more caring. And I believe God will help me in this journey. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION**

**The Lord's Prayer** (*in unison*)

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## **MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP**

*The Christmas Fund Offering*

**OFFERING**  
**Invitation**  
**Offertory**

**\*ADVENT DOXOLGY**

Tune: Veni Emmanuel

Em G C D7 G D G C G

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise God, all crea - tures

5 Am Bm7 Em Am Em B7 Em A7 D Em

here. . . . be - low. Praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host. Praise

10 D Bm G C Am D7 G D Em Bm G

Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -

15 C D7 Em D G C G Am Em Bm Em

man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

**\*Prayer of Dedication** (*let us pray together . . .*)

**We bring our offerings to you, O God. May these gifts help to proclaim good news, bring justice and healing, and comfort to those who mourn. To these same ends we dedicate our lives. Amen.**

**GOD'S PEOPLE DEPART TO SERVE**

**\*HYMN # 155**

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*Lift Up Your Heads*

Bingham



# NOTES AND NOTICES

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## **SPECIAL OFFERING**

**Today** we will participate in the **UCC Christmas Fund**. The Christmas Fund is one of the five Special Mission Offerings of the United Church of Christ and provides us with a means to directly assist clergy and lay leaders who have so faithfully and selflessly served and now find themselves facing unexpected financial needs. This fund enables the Ministerial Assistance program to provide, on behalf of the whole church, Pension supplementation, Health Premium Supplementation, Emergency Grants, and Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks to individuals and families in need.

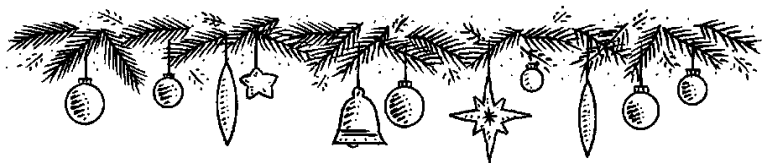
## **FEEDING YOUR SOUL**

An **Advent Devotional booklet** (Voices of Advent), a collection of voices from within the Homer Congregational Community and from beyond our walls, is available at each entrance to the sanctuary as well as Russell Fellowship Room. Enjoy this gift.

## **STEWARDSHIP**

**Thanks** to all who have submitted **2017 pledge cards**. Pledges are still being accepted and available in the Russell Fellowship Room. To date \$ 85,965 has been pledged: \$ 74,057 Operating, \$ 11,908 Mission.

**Update from the Financial Secretary:** In order to have deposits in by the end of the year, **please have all 2016 donations in by the Christmas Eve or Christmas Day collection** during service, or **received by mail no later than December 22**. The deadline is **NOT December 30**, as noted in the newsletter!



The Homer Congregational Church wishes you a joyous Advent and Christmas and invites you to join us for our worship together.

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24**

6:00 DISH TO PASS DINNER

Please bring a dish to pass, whether that be holiday hors d'oeuvres, a special holiday soup, or Grandpa's favorite cookies, and join us for a simple meal.

**7:30 PM CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP**

The Service of Lessons and Carols follows an ancient custom of placing music between scripture readings. The Homer Brass will be playing and the service concludes with a candle lighting custom.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25**

10:30 AM – WORSHIP


Join us for a cozy service of carols, scripture, and storytelling. Children (and adults) are invited to come in the pajamas and bring a favorite toy.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 1**

10:30 AM – WORSHIP

Join us for a time to share Holy Communion, and welcome the New Year together.

**Poinsettias:** You may pick up your poinsettia after the postlude or leave it in place for a deacon to deliver to others.



***Our Sanctuary has been decorated with  
poinsettias, given in memory or in honor,  
by the following:***

- ♥ Anne Wingard *in memory of Clark R. Wingard*
- ♥ Rachel Rood *in memory of Richard Rood and Pearl Rood*
- ♥ Gwen Hayne *in memory of loved ones*
- ♥ Ingrid Fox, Kristin and Steve Siegmund, Matthew Fox and Enrique Cramé *in memory of Richard Fox, Colin Garrey, Mr. and Mrs Charles Goodcoin, and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Fox*
- ♥ Andrea Herzog and Heather O'Hara *in memory of deceased members of the Howard Akers and Vincent Herzog families*
- ♥ Terre and Lee Dennis *in memory of their parents, Clair and Elizabeth Dennis; Robert and LeeAnna Tripp*
- ♥ Doris Brohard *in memory of loved ones*
- ♥ Gary, Paula, and Olivia Harrington *in memory of Rev. Paul and Ruth Downing, Mary McMillen, Beverly Mary Jane Lathrop*
- ♥ The Pedersens *in memory of Sheldon and Edna Baldwin, Sally Churchill, Rose Mary Cross, Lorie Scarpulla, Alyssa Churchill, Richard and Elizabeth Pedersen; and in honor of Emery Pedersen*
- ♥ Steve and Bev Berry *in memory of loved ones*
- ♥ Jean Cadwaller *in memory of Dr. William P. Cadwaller*
- ♥ Carol Costell Corbin *in honor of Anelia and Elizabeth*
- ♥ Virginia W. Knobel *in memory of Robert T. Knobel*
- ♥ Dale Halstead and Sylvia Hammond *in memory of Jennie Halstead and Fred Hammond*
- ♥ Les and Phyllis Wainman *in memory of loved ones*
- ♥ Carl and Jane (Durkee) Edlund *in memory of Mrs. Florence Durkee and Mrs. Nellie Edlund*
- ♥ Anne and Dave Barnes *in memory of loved ones*

Church Staff and Music Ministry

Rev. Dr. Kathleen Waters, Interim Minister  
Lisa Clark, Homer Nursery School Director  
Rachel Ditch, Director of Christian Education  
Joseph Ford, Director of Music  
James N. Shultes, Organist  
Jan Jeffers, Chapel Bells  
Gary Harrington, Sexton  
Sheila Shea, Church Administrator

Church Office Hours:

Mondays through Thursdays, 9am-Noon, closed Fridays.

Pastor Kathleen's time in the office varies each week, but she is available to visit those with special needs or to meet for any other reason. Please feel free to contact her via email: [pastor@homercc.org](mailto:pastor@homercc.org) or via her cell phone: (315) 380-0744

HCC website - [homercc.com](http://homercc.com)

Follow Homer Congregational Church on Facebook!

Monthly newsletters can be found at each entrance to the sanctuary and online at [homercc.com/resources](http://homercc.com/resources).

Our digital calendar can be viewed at [homercc.com/calendar](http://homercc.com/calendar).

Contact the office to receive our mid-week email, *Weekday Words*.

Welcome - We are glad that you have chosen to join us for worship this morning. If you would like additional information about HCC please speak to the pastor or worship leader and plan to join us for refreshments and community time after the service.

Children - We believe children of all ages have a place in worship and in the life of the church. A children's bulletin and "Busy Bags" are available at the entrance to the sanctuary. Nursery care is available.

Prayer request sheets are placed at each entrance. Prayers will be offered later in today's service.

Accessibility - Individual listening headsets are available to provide hearing assistance to any in need. Contact one of the ushers for help.

Miss a Sunday and want to review the bulletin? You can find weekly bulletins at our website: <http://www.homercc.com/resources>. Share with a friend.