



SECOND SUNDAY OF *Advent*

December 7, 2025 10:00 a.m.

Second Sunday of Advent

Welcome to First United Church of Christ

600 Mulberry St., Tipton, IA

(563) 886-6361

www.firstucctipton.org ♦ office@firstucctipton.org

We are pleased that you have decided to worship with us today!

Hearing assistance is available; ask an usher for a receiver

The offering plate is located on the small table outside of the sanctuary

You are welcome to give using this QR code.



venmo



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****PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE***

PRELUDE

WELCOME, CELEBRATIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Callie Bohlmann & Whitney Gehrs

***PASSING THE PEACE**

L: The peace of Christ be with you **P: And also with you!**

***GLORIA PATRI**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. World
without end, Amen, Amen.**

***HYMN “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”**

It came up-on the midnight clear, That glorious song of old,
From an-gels bend-ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good-will to men, From heav’n’s all-gracious King”:
The world in solemn still-ness lay To hear the angels sing.

And ye, beneath life’s crushing load, Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil a-long the climb-ing way With pain-ful steps and slow,
Look now! for glad and gold-en hours Come swift-ly on the wing:
O rest be-side the wea-ry road, And hear the an-gels sing.

For lo, the days are has-tening on, By proph-et seen of old,
When, with the ev-er— cir-cling years, Shall come the time fore-told,
When the new heav’n and earth shall own The Prince of Peace their King,
And the whole world send back the song Which now the angels sing.

CHILDREN’S LESSON

***HYMN “O Little Town of Bethlehem”**

O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep Their watch of wondering love,
O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King, And peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently The wondrous gift is giv’n!
So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of His heav’n,

No ear may hear His coming, But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem! Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in; Be born to us today.
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel.

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 1: 18—25

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

L: The Word of our Lord **P: Thanks be to God**

SERMON "Courage to Change the Things I Can"

HOLY COMMUNION

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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

***HYMN** “I Heard the Bells On Christmas Day” Casting Crowns

I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play
And mild and sweet their songs repeat
Of peace on earth good will to men

And the bells are ringing (Peace on Earth)
Like a choir they’re singing (Peace on Earth)
In my heart I hear them
Peace on earth, good will to men

And in despair I bowed my head
There is no peace on earth I said
For hate is strong and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good will to men

But the bells are ringing (Peace on Earth)
Like a choir singing (Peace on Earth)
Does anybody hear them?
Peace on earth, good will to men

Then rang the bells more loud and deep
God is not dead, nor does He sleep (Peace on Earth, peace on earth)
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail
With peace on earth, good will to men

Then ringing singing on its way
The world revolved from night to day
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime
Of peace on earth, good will to men

And the bells they’re ringing (Peace on Earth)

***BENEDICTION**

Praise God from whom all blessing flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, Ye Heavenly host Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

***POSTLUDE**

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Organist—Nancy Hipple

Liturgist—Avery Mente

Ushers— Bill Schwitzer, Kinley Williams and Harper Lemburg

The Ministers of First UCC are its members

Assisted by Pastor Kerri Sandusky

CALENDAR

Mon. Dec. 8	2 p.m.	Blood Drive
Tues. Dec. 9	10 a.m.	Bible Study
	6:30 p.m.	Bible Study
Wed. Dec. 10	4:30 p.m.	Loaves and Fishes
	5:30 p.m.	Radiate Youth Group (6th—8th)
	6:15 p.m.	Dinner for Radiate Youth Group
	6:45 p.m.	Radiate Youth Group (9th—12th)
Thurs. Dec. 11	8:30 a.m.	Table Talk at home of Pam Behning
	10:30 a.m.	Caring Conversation Grief Support
	5 p.m.	AA Meeting
	6 p.m.	Elders Meeting
	6:30 p.m.	Deacons Meeting
	7 p.m.	Church Council Meeting
Sat. Dec. 13	5 p.m.	Live Nativity & Beef Sundae Outreach
Sun. Dec. 14	9 a.m.	Sunday School (PreK—5th)
	9 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
	9 a.m.	Confirmation Class
	10 a.m.	Children's Christmas Program
	11:15 a.m.	Choir Practice

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ Please consider bringing **hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves** to add to the Christmas tree. These items will be donated to the Tipton Schools.
- ◆ Do you like to sing? Join us after church TODAY and again on Sunday Dec. 14, then at 9 a.m. before worship on Dec. 21 to practice for the **Christmas worship service**.
- ◆ First UCC hosts a **blood drive** tomorrow, Dec. 8. Make sure to go to Impact Blood to sign up or call the office.
- ◆ **Table Talk** will be this Thursday at 8:30 a.m. at the home of Pam Behning, 161 Oakview Ct. All are welcome for a time of refreshments and fellowship.
- ◆ Would you be **willing to make a pie(s)** for the Live Nativity meal? We are asking for pumpkin, peach, apple or pecan pies to be baked (**NOT CUT**), and brought to Fellowship Hall on Friday, Dec. 12. Please sign up on the kiosk for how many and what kind you are willing to donate. Thank You!

- ◆ The annual **Live Nativity and Beef** Sunday dinner is coming on Dec. 13, from 5—6:30 p.m. Please check the kiosk for ways you can help.
- ◆ Next week is our **Children's Christmas program** during worship. You won't want miss this special time!
- ◆ **Radiate Youth Group's Christmas party** will be Wednesday. Please make sure to bring a wrapped unlabeled white elephant gift (does not need to be purchased) for the exchange. We will have dinner, Bible lesson, and Christmas activities!
- ◆ Next week is our **Children's Christmas program** during worship. You won't want miss this special time!
- ◆ The **Blue Christmas Service** or "Longest Night" will be Sunday, Dec. 21 at 6:30 p.m. This service focuses on the hope of the holidays for those who are experiencing a "blue" season. Please invite your family and friends to this special time!
- ◆ All are invited to **donate a poinsettia** to decorate the sanctuary. Please drop off anytime before Christmas Eve (the closer to the 24th the better). Label the flower "In Honor of" or In Memory of" if you would like to be listed in the bulletin. You are welcome to take them home following the Christmas Eve service.
- ◆ **Planned giving/Pledge cards and** letters for 2026 are due to the office. If you need one, they are located outside the sanctuary.
- ◆ **Welcome Laura Schroeder** as our new church custodian! She will take Tony Young's place. Thanks Tony!
- ◆ **Thank you** to all who donated and helped with the youth group mission trip fundraiser! The youth raised \$3,000 toward their St. Louis mission trip! Thank you for your support!

SERMON NOTES/TAKEAWAYS