



First Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

608 West Fourth St
Waterloo IA 50702

www.firstcongucc.org
phone 319-234-8927



Fourth Sunday of Advent

Advent 
WEEK FOUR
Love

December 22, 2024

Worship Leader
Anne Hoekstra

Mini Message
Brandyn Miller

Director of Music
Luke Overton

Senior Pastor
Brandyn Miller

Organist
Hudson Lourenço-Feld

Office Manager
Michelle Wolfe

Custodian
Kyle Lindaman

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Prelude	Italian Carols Improvisation	Hudson Lourenço-Feld
Welcome and Announcements		Anne Hoekstra
Advent Candle Lighting		The Miller Family
<p>Reader One: When the people were looking for deliverance, the prophet Micah declared, “But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah...from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient day.” (Micah 5:2). But what if Micah is also talking to us, proclaiming, “But you, O First Congregational Church of Waterloo, from you shall come forth for me...” What? What might God be calling forth from us?</p> <p>Congregation: God invites us to receive the promise of God’s salvation and the sustenance of God’s mercy and grace, enabling us to live the promise as God-bearers to the world. As Christ was born in Bethlehem, so too we answer God’s invitation to have Christ born among us today and every day.</p> <p>Reader Two: We light this candle of love as a sign of our commitment to live as people of God’s promise, a promise of salvation and flourishing for all people that springs forth from God’s love for all creation.</p>		
*Advent Song of Response	<i>Come, O Long Expected Jesus</i> (v. 3)	#122 (NCH - Black)
*Prayer of Invocation (responsive)		Anne Hoekstra
<p>Eternal and loving God, In this season of Advent, we gather in awe of Your unfailing presence. Though we may face trials and see only what is temporary, Your love renews us day by day, pointing us to the eternal glory You have prepared.</p> <p>Open our hearts to the wonder of Your presence as we worship. Fill us with faith to proclaim Your love and courage to reflect it in our lives. May Your Spirit guide us as we fix our eyes not on what is seen but on what is unseen—the everlasting light of Your love in Christ Jesus. Amen.</p>		
*Opening Hymn	<i>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel</i>	#110 (Pilgrim - Red)
Children’s Message		Brandyn Miller
Choral Anthem	<i>The Yearning</i> by Craig Courtney	Chancel Choir
Invitation to Offertory		Anne Hoekstra
Offertory		Hudson Lourenço-Feld
*Doxology		#515 (Pilgrim - Red)
*Prayer of Dedication		Anne Hoekstra
Scripture Reading	Micah 5:2-5a & Luke 1:46b-55	Anne Hoekstra
<p>Leader: This is the word of the Lord</p> <p>All: Thanks be to God!</p>		
Message	<i>“Present Hope of a Future Kingdom”</i>	Brandyn Miller

***Hymn of Response**

Away in a Manger

(See Below)

Joys & Concerns

Anne Hoekstra

Leader: Lord, in your mercy

People: Hear our prayer

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer (unison)

Brandyn Miller

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, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

***Parting Hymn**

Go Tell it on the Mountain

#154 (NCH - Black)

***Benediction**

Brandyn Miller

Postlude

Wassail Song - Traditional

Hudson Lourenço-Feld

Sunday School for students up to 6th grade is provided after the Children's Message. We welcome your child(ren) to follow our Sunday School leaders to the youth director's office at the conclusion of the Children's Message.

Away in a Manger 205

Unison

1 A - way in a man-ger, no crib for a bed, the lit - tle Lord
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the Ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay close by me for -

Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked
 Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love thee, Lord Je - sus, look
 ev - er, and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in

down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 down from the sky and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.
 thy ten - der care, and fit us for heav - en, to live with thee there.

© One License A-736019

WORDS: Anonymous, 1885; vs. 3 John Thomas McFarland (1851-1913)
 MUSIC: William J. Kirkpatrick (1838-1921)

CRADLE SONG
 11.11.11.11.