

First Congregational United Church of Christ
"Where No One Is A Stranger"
Second Sunday After the Epiphany
January 14, 2024

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: In the silence of a lonely night, in the songs children sing in the morning, God calls to us.

Many: **We are here, God who is always with us, listening for your words of life and love.**

One: When we would decide to go it alone, when we think no good can be found anywhere, Jesus calls to us.

Many: **We are here, Friend who knows our longings, ready to come and see where you would lead us.**

One: When we think we have license to do whatever we want, when we are convinced we need no map, the Spirit calls to us.

One: **We are here, Peace we are longing for, so that we might help others find the way to life..**

*Opening Song:

"Stand Up and Bless the Lord"

#11

*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

Sovereign One, we acknowledge your presence among us. Stir up the gifts you have planted among us. Hold us in your care and present a mirror before us so that we may know ourselves as you have known us. Strengthen us in your mercy and let your grace propel us to renewal and righteousness. Lift us so that might arise in spirit and in truth for your glory.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(prayed together)

Because we are so focused on ourselves, God of every life, it is hard to see the lives which others endure. When we are so worried about how the economy will affect us, we do not notice those in need around us. As we grumble about our aches and pains, and about how difficult it is to get out of the bed each day, we easily ignore the broken. Forgive us, God of goodness and grace. Speak to us of healing, so we might bring help to others. Speak to us of grace, so hearing, we may share it with everyone we

meet. Speak to us of love and life, so we may offer it as freely as Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, brought it to us.

A TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Come and see! God's grace is poured out on everyone, God's hope is freely shared in every moment, forgiveness is the gift which mends our foolish lives.

Many: **Thanks be to God. We are surrounded by God's love and mercy, now and to the very end!**

SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in an innovative God, who does not wait for us to find ourselves but comes seeking the lost and calling us into a new way.

I believe in Jesus of Nazareth as God's crucial initiative, that when he calls us to follow, Christ also gives us the power to become, both in creed and deed, the children of the living God.

I believe in the Spirit by whom Jesus still comes to us, calling us to follow him into an obedience which is true liberty and to a humble service which is the fruit of holy friendship.

I believe in the church as the fellowship of Christ's people, called to respect and support one another through joys and tribulations as we travel the road towards the "promised land" of God's future.

Because Christ has called me, in this I truly believe.

*GLORIA PATRI

#734

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 with-out end. A-men, A-men.

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

John 1:43-51

read from *The Message*

MESSAGE:

"Snap Judgements"

Pastor Chris

Prayers of The People/The Lord's Prayer (with debts/debtors)

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

#34

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

God, cultivate and nurture gratitude and trust in us. May our gifts be used for the benefit of the kindom and all creation in your name with the Peace of Christ.

***Closing Song:** "The Summons" #350

***Going Forth with the Peace of Christ**

POSTLUDE

***Indicates all who are able please stand**

Other Lectionary Scripture Readings: 1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20), 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

The Call to Worship, Call to Confession (adapted), Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance are by Thom M. Shuman from Lectionary Liturgies. The Opening Prayer and Offering Prayer of Dedication are by Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ. from Worship Ways- Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ. The Affirmation of Faith is by Bruce Prewer.

=====

Worship Leader:	Pastor Chris Burtnett
Lector:	David Burrow
Organist:	Antonia Rupert
January Radio Sponsor:	Pastor Chris & Pam Burtnett

=====

Sunday, January 14: 10:30am - Worship
Sunday School
Coffee

Monday, January 15: 5pm.- Meals on Wheels Meeting

Tuesday, January 16: 9:30-11am.-Pastor at Feed Mill
2pm- Good Sam Bible Study

Wednesday, January 17: 7pm.- Board Meeting

Sunday, January 21: 10:30am - Worship
Sunday School
Coffee

Friday, January 26: February/March Newsletter deadline

Sunday, January 28 will be our Annual Meeting. Please have your annual reports into the office by January 18. Potluck following Annual Meeting

We will be collecting good used or new towels, blankets, etc. for the Care team in January. If you would like to donate, please bring them to the church.

The radio sign-up sheet is in the Parlor. The rate per Sunday is \$32.50-which is \$130.00 for months with 4 Sundays and \$162.50 for months with five Sundays. You may also call the church office for a Month 515-295-2845. The months left are May, July, and September.



*First Congregational
United Church of Christ*

165 Years

315 Moore Street – Algona, IA 50511
515-295-2845