

First Congregational United Church of Christ
“Where No One Is A Stranger”
Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany
January 28, 2024

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: We come to worship...

Many: Giving thanks with whole hearts...

One: In the company of this congregation....

Many: We worship the One who is gracious and merciful...

One: Holy and awesome is God's name!

Many: Let's worship God together!

*Opening Song:

“God's Holy Ways Are Just and True”

#663

*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

Holy God, holy, gracious, and merciful, we gather mindful of your covenant with us and all creation. We gather mindful of your wonderful deeds and your powerful work among us. Grant that we may be joined with all your creation in praising you in the name of the One who was, and is, and is to come.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(prayed together)

We come on this holy day, God, to speak of how we live. Politicians, celebrities, talk show folks have become our so-called gods. Our choices often cause those around us to trip over our anger and slip on our pride. The words we speak to others show how we really want nothing to do with you.

Forgive us, Holy God, and have mercy on us. May we silence our fears, so words of hope may be spoken. May we give thanks not only with our hearts but with the grace we can share with others. May justice and peace be the tools we use as we serve beside Jesus, our Savior.

A TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: We know who God is – the One who comes to love us, to forgive us, and to save us.

Many: Thanks be to God. We will spread this good news, and share this grace and hope, with everyone we meet.

SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 1:21-28

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

inside front cover of the hymnal

*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

Psalms 111

read from the *Common English Bible*

MESSAGE:

“Let's Review”

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

Generous God, we worship with our whole hearts, and give with our whole hearts, remembering your covenant with us. As we share these gifts, may they be for the work of faithful justice and gracious mercy through your church and in your world.

*Closing Song:

“Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service”

#575

*Going Forth with the Peace of Christ

POSTLUDE

*Indicates all who are able please stand

Other Lectionary Scripture Readings: Deuteronomy 18:15-20, 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

The Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, and Offering Prayer of Dedication, (adapted) are from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources* for the United Church of Christ. The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, and Words of Assurance are by Thom M. Shuman from *Lectionary Liturgies*. The Affirmation of Faith is our 1st Congregational United Church of Christ, Algona Statement of Purpose.

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

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Sunday, January 28: 10:30am - Worship
Sunday School
Annual Meeting following Worship
Potluck following Annual Meeting

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

Sunday, February 4: 10:30am – Worship with Sacrament of Communion
Sunday School
Coffee
Food Pantry

We will be collecting good used or new towels, blankets, etc. for the Care team through February 4th. If you would like to donate, please bring them to the church.

The “Forever Faithful 29 Reflections on God’s Compassion in Black History” may be picked up in the Fellowship Hall entry.

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 July and September.

*Praise God
I thank God
With all my Heart
In the company of those
Who do right in the
congregation.
Psalm 111:1*

*First Congregational
United Church of Christ
165 Years*

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