

First Congregational United Church of Christ
"Where No One Is A Stranger"
Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
February 4, 2024

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: We have come to worship the Holy One!

Many: We lift up our eyes.

One: We have gathered to praise our Eternal God.

Many: How good it is to sing praises to our God.

One: A song of praise is fitting!

Many: Let's worship God together.

*Opening Song:

"Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above"

#56

*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

Everlasting God, Creator of the ends of the earth, you who spread the heavens like a curtain, and make us a tent to live in, gather us in the shelter of your love, and renew our strength, that with wings as eagles we might not grow weary as we walk with you. We pray in the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(prayed together)

We cannot hide from you, Everlasting God, even if we were to go from one edge of creation to the next. You speak to us of compassion, but the ways in which we treat others show we have not been listening. You explain your hopes to us, and we act as if we don't have a clue as to what is going on. We run as fast, and as far from you as we can, and wonder why we have no energy to follow Jesus.

Yet you search for us in all the deserted places we flee, Never-wearied God, so you can take us by the hand to show us the way to life with you. Forgive us and heal our broken hearts so we can offer them to others. Fill us with your strength so we can bind ourselves to Jesus, our Savior, following him to serve all your children.

A TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: There's good news for us. God never tires out, nor is there is an expiration date on God's forgiveness. God is ever with us, healing us with mercy, and strengthening us for service.

Many: If God numbers the stars, surely our names are known by the One who loves us and offers us grace. This is indeed good news for all! Thanks be to God.

SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 1:29-39

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

inside back cover of hymnal

(read together)

*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

Isaiah 40:21-31

read from *The Message*

MESSAGE:

"Yoo-hoo!"

Pastor Chris

Communion Song:

"With the Body That Was Broken"

#691

GATHERING AT CHRIST'S TABLE

Invitation, Communion Prayer, Sanctus, Words of Institution, Consecration Prayer, Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors), Sharing the Bread and Cup

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We thank you, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all of his gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives; through Jesus our savior we pray. Amen.

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**

Creator of heaven and earth, receive the gifts we bring before you this day, that they may touch the world with gladness and bring aid to those in need.

***Closing Song:** "Amen, Amen" #249

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

POSTLUDE

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

Other Lectionary Scripture Readings: Psalm 147, 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

The Call to Worship (adapted) and Opening Prayer, were written by The Rev. Stephanie Perdue, PhD, Director, The Damascus Project, Shared Theological Education Ministry of the Wisconsin & Minnesota Conferences of the United Church of Christ from Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ. The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession (adapted), and Words of Assurance (adapted) are by Thom M. Shuman from Lectionary Liturgies. The Affirmation of Faith is aversion of our United Church of Christ Statement of Faith. The Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) is from The Abingdon Worship Annual-2024, edited by May Scifres and B.J. Beu. The Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving (adapted) is from the Book of Worship, United Church of Christ.

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Worship Leader:	Pastor Chris Burnett
Lector:	David Burrow
Organist:	Antonia Rupert
February Radio Sponsor:	David Burrow

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Birthdays: February: 7-Josie Reynolds

Sunday, February 4: 10:30am- Worship with communion
 Sunday School
 Coffee
 Food Pantry

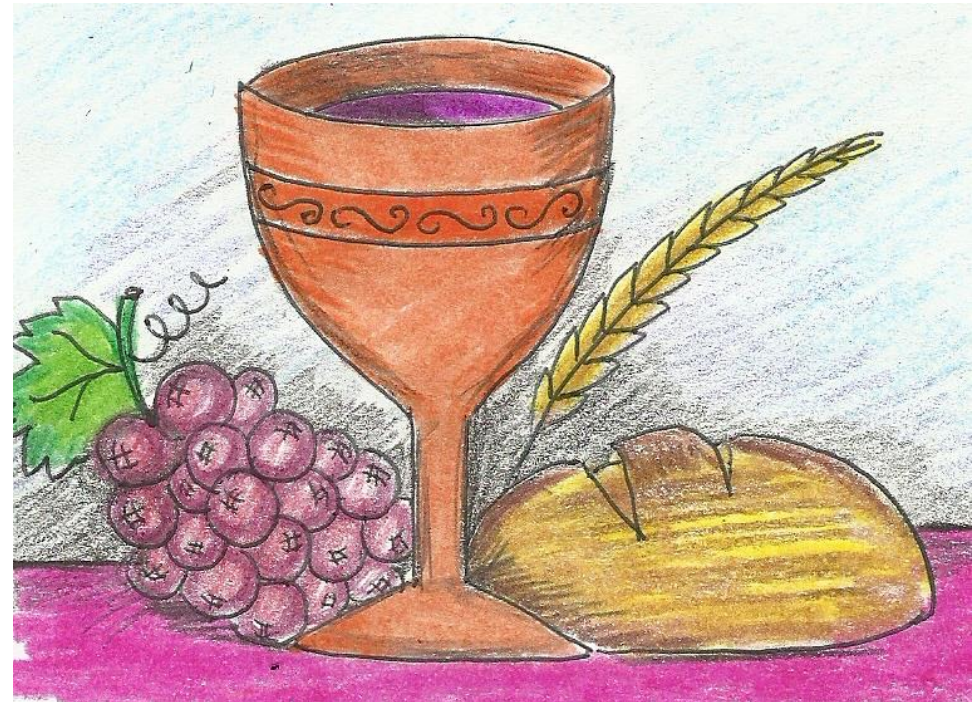
Tuesday, February 6: 9:30-Noon-Pastor at Feed Mill

Thursday, February 8: 8:30am.- Ministerial Meeting at Algona Faith

Sunday, February 11: 10:30am- Worship
 Sunday School
 Coffee

We are celebrating the sacrament of communion this morning. Everyone is welcome at the table. The inner ring is wine and the outer ring is grape juice.

Algona Blood Drive: Friday, February 9, 9am-2pm at 1st Lutheran Church; Monday, February 12, 12:30-5:30pm at 1st United Methodist Church.



*First Congregational
 United Church of Christ
 165 Years*

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