

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Epiphany
January 6, 2019

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 60:1-6 from the *Common English Bible*

***OPENING SONG:** "O Splendor of God's Glory Bright" #144

SHARING JESUS' PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

One: Arise! Shine! Your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you!

Many: We have seen the star in the east, and we are following.

One: We have remembered God's wonder and promise, and we are worshipping.

Many: We have come not to get presents, but to give them!

One: Lift up your eyes and look around; God's people now gather together to open our hearts and sing out our praise.

Many: The mystery of God's wonder and grace is here: Come, let us adore!

OPENING PRAYER (read together)

God of wonder and mystery, today we remember how you surprise us in every age. Into the gloom of fear and want, you bring light; into emptiness, you bring abundance; into the cold, you bring warmth. Into the hardness of the world, you bring the greatest power we have known, in the seemingly powerless form of an infant. Enter now, Holy One, among us and within us, and move us to joyful adoration of your mystery and wonder. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (read together)

We search for your light, Star Caster, but too often end up settling for the dimness of temptation. Our motives for seeking to find Christ are not always pure, for we expect him to fulfill our desires, rather than your hopes for us. We want the gifts of wealth, health, success, fulfillment, rather than those of servanthood, of compassion, of peace. Forgive us, Shaper of our lives, that we are so foolish to put our needs ahead of your grace. Help us to be like those wise people of so long ago, who found hope, instead of a destination; who found grace, instead of gratitude; who found salvation, instead of a sign. As we journey with your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, fill us with the light of your joy and love. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

One: Up, on your feet! Grace has been poured into our hearts, love has flooded our souls, the light of hope shines in us.

Many: This is the light which has come to all, the light we will carry and give to everyone we meet. Thanks be to God. Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

***MIDDLE SONG:** "We Three Kings of Orient Are" #233

***AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (read together) inside back cover of hymnal

GLORIA PATRI #734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE Matthew 2:1-12 from the *Good News Bible*

MESSAGE: "Different Stories" Pastor Burtnett

GATHERING AT JESUS' TABLE

Invitation, Communion Prayer, *Sanctus*, Words of Institution, Consecration Prayer, Lord's Prayer, 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

Eternal God, you have called your people from east and west, from north and south to feast at the table of Jesus Christ. We thank you for Christ’s presence and for the spiritual food of this bread and cup. By the power of the Spirit, keep us faithful to your will. Go with us to the streets, to our homes, and to our places of labor and leisure that whether we are gathered or scattered, we may be the servant church of the servant Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen

OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY**

***DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

***CLOSING SONG:** “The First Noel” #229

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship (adapted), 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 from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Schuman. The Affirmation of Faith is our United Church of Christ Statement of Faith

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Organist: Liz Reynolds
Lector: David Burrow
Worship Leader: Pastor Chris
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January Radio Sponsor:

Birthdays:

Sunday school starts again today. Also, after the service, we will be taking down the decorations.

Tuesday Pastor Burtnett will be in Calumet.

Wednesday Fellowship night begins at 5:30 and the Board will meet at 7 pm.

A Sign-up sheet for the 2019 radio broadcasts is in the parlor.

Please take home your poinsettias today.



**THEIR EYES WERE OPENED, AND THEY
RECOGNIZED THE RISEN CHRIST IN THE
BREAKING OF THE BREAD.**