

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
First Sunday after Epiphany
Baptism of Christ Sunday
January 13, 2019

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 29 from the *Common English Bible*

***OPENING SONG:** “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” #71

SHARING JESUS’ PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

One: Sisters and brothers, today we recall: Jesus came to the waters of baptism.

Many: In baptism, our Creator claims us and frees us from the power of hatred and death.

One: In baptism we are joined to Christ and we are joined together in unity, recalling

Many: “There is no longer Jew or Greek there is no longer slave or free there is no longer male or female for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.”

One: In baptism, the Spirit of God anoints us for ministry and makes us signs of divine love. It is the mark of acceptance into the church and the beginning of our growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

Many: Therefore on this day, the whole church, the Body of Christ, remembers and celebrates.

Everyone: Let’s worship God!

OPENING PRAYER (read together)

Glorious God, we rejoice in your presence on this holy day. Reveal your presence to us in word and sacrament, in fellowship and worship. Speak words of life, that we may sense your Spirit breathing new life into us each and every day. Speak your words of love, that we may rest in the knowledge that we are your beloved children. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (read together)

We know what it is like to be singed by the flames of our lives, Holy God. We look for ourselves in all the wrong places - success, power, adulation. We carve our names in the granite walls of work, hoping we will be remembered when we are gone. We have gone through the waters of baptism, but live as if they have not changed us.

We need to hear your sure word, 'do not fear,' Shaper of our lives. Our failures do not cause you to quit loving us, for you continue to claim us, gathering us up in your compassionate arms. In our baptism, we discover not the end, but the first step of our journey with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

One: God's words of comfort and restoration are more powerful than any foolishness, any mistakes, any sins we commit. This is good news: we are God's people!

Many: Thanks be to God! By water and word, by the Spirit of God's redeeming grace, we are marked and sealed as God's beloved children. Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 43:1-7

***MIDDLE SONG:** “When Peace Like a River” #428

***AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (read together)

We belong to God, eternal and infinite, Creator of all things and all that is to come.

We follow Christ, who comes to us from God, and reveals God to us. He heals people and transforms lives, and calls us to join in his ministry. He was crucified, died, and was raised again by God, and reigns over all Creation; and he bids us to die and rise with him in the service of the healing of the world.

We are moved by the Holy Spirit, together with the communion of saints, as members of the Body of Christ, God's holy universal church. We are confident in the forgiveness of sin, the power of resurrection and the reality of eternal life. In all things it is our desire to follow Christ, by the grace of the Holy Spirit, for God's glory. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI #734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 from *The Message*

MESSAGE: "Remember.....You're Baptized"

Pastor Burtnett

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY**

Words #44

***DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

***CLOSING SONG "In Water We Grow"**

#678 (sung to tune of #112)

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship is from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Opening Prayer, and Offering Prayer of Dedication are from *The Abingdon Worship Annual* edited by Mary Scifres and B. J. Beu. The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Schuman. The Affirmation of Faith is by Steve Garnaas-Holmes

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Organist: Liz Reynolds

Lector: David Burrow

Worship Leader: Pastor Burtnett

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January Radio Sponsor:

Birthdays: 1-17 David Phillip

The annual meeting and potluck will be held on Sunday the 27th of this month. Please send all annual reports to the office by Friday the 18th. It would be appreciated if all reports be e-mailed to the office.

The week of Christian Unity begins on the 21st of January. We will host that Monday. Please consider helping out preparing, serving and cleaning up that day. The Week Ahead will have the schedule for that week.

Newsletter articles and meeting dates for February and March are due into the office by the 29th of this month. Share pictures and stories that might inspire, humor, or inform our readers.

**First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa**



"Where No One Is A Stranger"

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