

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
First Sunday in Advent
December 1, 2019

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

***OPENING SONG:** “You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd” #99

SHARING JESUS’ PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

One: People of the living God, come to the mountain of God.

Many: Prepare the way of the Lord.

One: Sisters, brothers, and siblings in Christ, prepare your hearts to hear the word of God.

Many: Prepare the way of the Lord.

One: Children of the Holy Spirit, walk in the light of God.

Everyone: Come! Let’s worship!

OPENING PRAYER (read together)

God of power and might, your majesty is greater than the highest mountain, your glory more radiant than the summer sun. As the days grow dark and the sun’s light wanes, warm our hearts with the radiance of your love, that we might find courage and walk by the light of the moon. As nations rise up against nation, strengthen our desire for peace in your name, that we might beat our swords into plowshares and our spears into pruning hooks. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (read together)

Sometimes it is hard for us to take you seriously, God of our lives. With terrorism stalking us, how can we think of turning bombers into shelters for the homeless? With bullies using the airwaves to threaten those around us, how could we not respond with anger and vindictive slights? With our hopes turned to ashes, how can we become beacons of light for those in the shadows?

Forgive us, God of holy seasons, and have mercy. In the days to come, may we discover the grace which has always been ours, so we can share it with others. May we taste the sweet goodness of your love, and feed those around us. May we be filled with the peace of your Spirit, so we may expect you to come in those we least expect, in places which surprise us, in moments we overlook, just as you did in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

One: Reach out and touch the realm of God, for it is right next to you. Breathe in, and feel the Spirit of peace and hope. Trust and believe this good news: God is nearer than you might ever imagine.

Many: Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! We can set aside our differences and embrace everyone, we can seek peace for all in our lives, our neighborhoods, our world. Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 24:36-44

***MIDDLE SONG:** “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” #153

***AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** Back of the Hymnal

GLORIA PATRI #734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE Romans 13:11-14 read from *The Message*

MESSAGE: “Do you have the time?” 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

Holy Creator, Bread of Life, Everlasting Salvation, a light shines in the night and the night will not over come it. In this meal we have been replenished and strengthened, the light of your love rekindled within. We will be bold to carry this light into the world. Thank you for recharging our batteries and reviving your ambient glow within us. You are the power source that never gives out - eternally renewable and sustainable. Thank you, God. Thank you, Christ. Thank you, Spirit. Amen.

OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY**

***DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

***CLOSING SONG:** "Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn" #160

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) are from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2019* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu. The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, and Words of Assurance (adapted) are from *Lectioary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Prayer of Thanksgiving is from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*

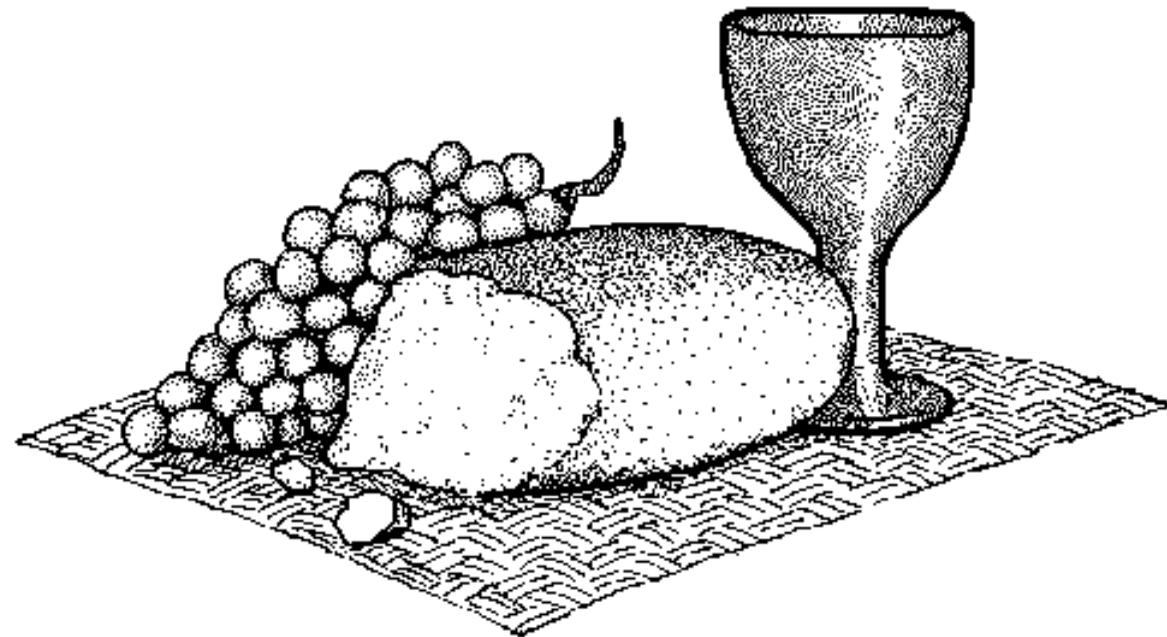
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Organist:	Liz Reynolds
Lector:	David Burrow
Worship Leader:	Pastor Burtnett

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December Radio sponsors: Mick and Kris Schlievert

Birthdays: 12-6 Gary and Paige Walker



*Their Eyes Were Opened,
 And They Recognized
 The Risen Christ
 In The Breaking
 Of The Bread.*

The annual Hospice of the Heartland “lights of Life” program will be held Sunday, December 8 at 2 pm at the hospital. Donations of \$10 for a light should be sent to Hospice of the Heartland. Our Daily Bread for the next three months is in the Fellowship hall. The mitten tree will be up for this month. Hats, scarves, mittens, etc. are welcome. Children’s mittens should be waterproof.

HOPE

Leader: Watch and wait for Christ’s coming! Light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, remembering the promises of God with prayer.

People: We light this candle in hope. *(The first candle is lit.)*

Leader: Hear God’s promise of hope from Isaiah 2:2-4: In days to come the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.” For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. Let us pray:

All: Faithful God, out of war’s chaos, you bring the order of peace. Renew us in hope, that we may work toward Christ’s advent of peace among all nations. God of promise, God of hope, into our darkness come. Amen.

Announcements:

Donations to the Christmas family will be taken until the 15th of this month.
Today after church we will decorate the church.
Wednesday, the 4th, the Pastor Parish Relationship committee will meet at 4 pm.
The Board will meet at 7 pm that night.
Next Sunday is the annual cookie sale.

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