

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Second Sunday After Christmas/Epiphany
Sunday
January 5, 2020

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 147:12-20 read from *The Message*

***OPENING SONG:** “Hark the Herald Angels Sing” #185

SHARING JESUS’ PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

One: Arise, Shine! Your light has come.

Many: The glory of God shines like the sun.

One: Behold, the nations have come to witness God’s light.

Many: Kings have come to behold Christ’s brightness.

One: Lift up your eyes and look around.

Many: The glory of God is all around.

One: Arise, shine! Your light has come.

OPENING PRAYER (read together)

Word made Flesh, you have come into our midst as light and wisdom, desiring to be known to us in our lives and to be found in the world around us. Open our eyes and our ears and our hearts to recognize you where you dwell—in our midst—Challenging, heartening, lighting the way to truth, peace, justice. 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 Jesus 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 Isaiah 60:1-6

***MIDDLE SONG:** “Arise, Your Light Is Come” #231

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

GLORIA PATRI #734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE : Matthew 2:1-12 read from *The Message*

MESSAGE: “Following Stars” 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

Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior’s presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by this bread and this cup that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that your universal church maybe a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY**

***DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

***CLOSING SONG:** “We Three Kings”

#233

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

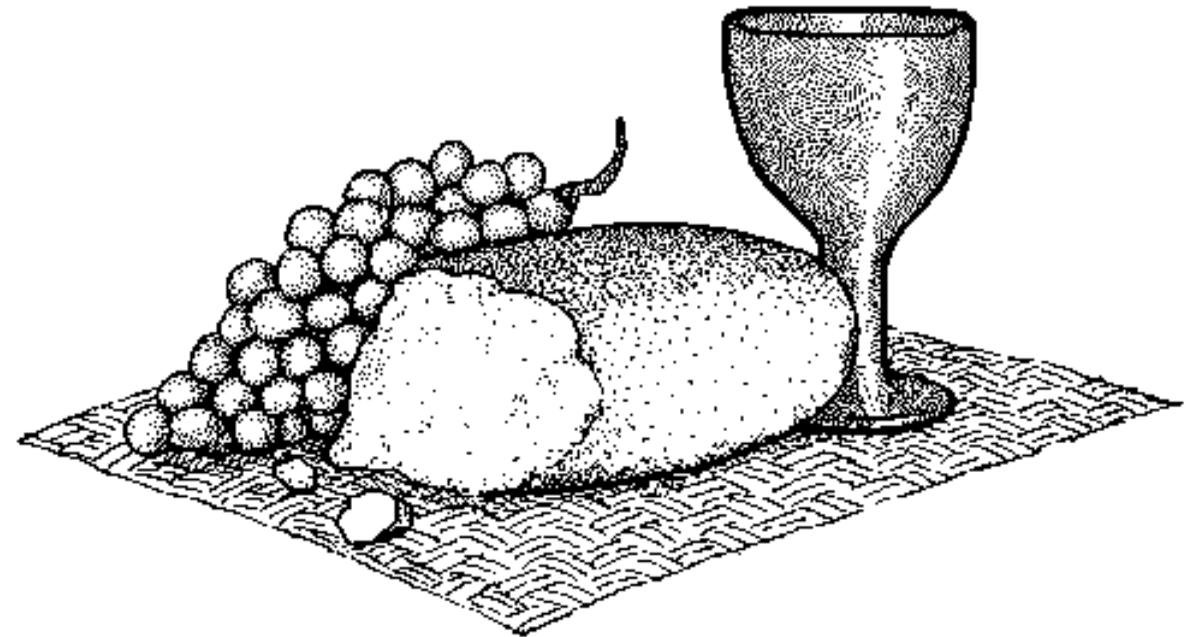
The Call to Worship is from *The Abingdon Worship Annual, 2020* edited by Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu. The Opening Prayer, and Offering Prayer of Dedication are from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession (adapted), and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving (adapted) is from the *Book of Worship United Church of Christ*.

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

January Radio sponsor: Marilyn Deal

Birthdays:

Wednesday, the 8th, Fellowship will meet at 5:30 pm.
Next Sunday Seekers and Sunday school will begin.



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

Of The Bread.