

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
First Sunday after Epiphany
Baptism of Christ Sunday
January 12, 2020

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*OPENING SONG: "O, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" #96

SHARING JESUS' PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

Leader: Created in God's loving image,

People: we gather as the children of God.

Leader: Beloved by Jesus, who loves us well,

People: we gather as the beloved body of Christ.

Leader: Blessed by the Spirit of God,

People: we gather in the power of the Holy Spirit.

OPENING PRAYER (read together)

Beloved God, who calls us together in love, even as we rejoice in your love, we ask that you strengthen our love for one another. Embolden us to love our adversaries and be kind to those who wrong us. Cover us with your amazing grace, that we might love ourselves, despite all our misgivings, self-doubts, and wrongdoings. Guide us to live in your mercy, that we may remember our baptismal call, and live as those chosen and beloved. In your mercy and love, we pray. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (read together)

We try to stop Jesus from coming into our lives, Patient God, for we know how disruptive he can be. He wants us to preach the gospel with our lives, but we prefer to complain how hard that is to do. He wants us to do what is right, yet wrong-doing comes so easily for us. He would like us not to give up until justice is done, but we just don't seem to have the time.

We confess because we know we need to be forgiven by you, Glory and Grace. Bathe us in the life giving waters of your mercy so we can come up from the water, ready to do good for others, to give you all the praise, to learn justice, grace, and hope from your Servant, Jesus Christ. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

One: Friends, you are God's Beloved. You delight God's heart. Believe this good news.

Many: The Spirit of God rests upon us, anointing us with mercy and peace. Thanks be to God! Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 3:13-17

*MIDDLE SONG: "Fairest Lord Jesus" #123

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (read together)

I believe in the God of Jesus of Nazareth, who blesses the meek, the poor and the persecuted, exalts the least and saves the lost.

I believe in the Holy One whose dearest Child, Jesus the Christ, pleased God far more than tongue or pen can ever tell.

I believe in the baptized Christ, and the community of love and hope which grew around his word and witness.

I believe that he is the first citizen of a new race, where the entry fee is Divine grace, and the ground rules are shaped by love.

I believe in the baptism of the Holy Spirit, by whom old things find new birth, and new things grow on to maturity, and the dead receive regeneration.

I believe in one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and in the limitless life which flows for the healing of the nations. AMEN.

GLORIA PATRI #734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE Isaiah 42:1-9 read from the *Good News Bible*

MESSAGE: "It Will Leave a Mark"

Pastor Burnnett

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY**

Words #44

***DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

***CLOSING SONG "Loving Spirit"**

#135 (sung to tune of hymn #677)

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

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

=====

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

=====

January Radio Sponsor: Marilyn Deal
Birthdays: 1-17 David Phillip

The Board will meet this Wednesday at 7 pm.

The annual meeting and potluck will be held on Sunday the 26th of this month. Please send all annual reports to the office by Friday the 18^{21st}. It would be appreciated if all reports are e-mailed to the office.

The week of Christian Unity begins on the 20st of January. We will host the Wednesday meeting. 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 31th of this month. Share pictures and stories that might inspire, humor, or inform our readers.

The sign-up sheet for the radio broadcasts is posted in the parlor.

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



"Where No One Is A Stranger"

315 S. Moore Street – Algona, IA 50511

515-295-2845