

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
Algona, Iowa  
First Sunday of Advent  
November 29, 2020

## PRELUDE

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPE

Leader: O Holy One, we light this first candle, a candle of grief, in the midst of the stories of the last year. Let it burn through these weeks as a beacon to become the light of Hope. Let it guide us to your presence in our midst, leading us to your Justice and Joy in the service of Peace.

People: God be with us in this Light of Hope. *(light your first Advent candle)*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

Leader: In this uncertain season of Advent, we wait.

People: Hoping, hoping God is coming to us.

Leader: In the vagueness of these days, we try to listen.

People: Hoping, hoping the Word will be whispered to us.

Leader: In the weariness of our times, we wait, we listen, we watch.

People: Hoping, hoping the Spirit will be found in our midst.

\*OPENING SONG “Come, Thou Almighty King”

#148

## OPENING PRAYER

(read together)

Come into our midst, Holy One, Rider of the Clouds of Heaven, surprising answer to heartfelt prayer. In whatever way you choose— come. Shake us up. Help us find you at work in our lives showing the way to make all things new. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

## CALL TO CONFESSION

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(read together)

Come, God-who-draws-near-to-us, for we live in fretful times, wondering if we will ever come out of them. Come, God-who-has-walked-these-roads, for we long to be faithful in these days, but find it all too easy to be seduced by worry. Come, God-who-carries-life-in-your-breath, for we try to stay apart for others and ourselves, but find it easy to listen to those who mock us for being so foolish.

Come to us with your grace. Come to us with your hope. Come to us with your love. Amen.

## SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

Leader: In the midst of all our uncertainty, we are reminded of the old truths, that God loves us, God forgives us, God restores us to new life.

People: The Child has come, bringing grace, offering mercy, and wrapping us in arms of love! Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.

## FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 64:1-9

## \* AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

We believe in God, creator and lover of the earth, origin and destiny of us all.

We believe in Jesus the Christ—God coming to us in the fragile promise of a baby yet unborn—who emerges as the herald of hope, God's laughter in the face of despair.

Plunged into death and hell, he broke free the captives, and is leading the way to the land of promise where justice and peace will flourish.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who implants the seed of truth, brings us to birth as the body of Christ, and empowers us to confront and transform all that is corrupt, degrading and deceitful.

We believe in the coming reign of God. Announced by the Baptist, it has drawn near to us in Jesus, and will be consummated in the glorious marriage of earth and heaven, when all who have passed through the world's deep sorrow will be raised from the waters, robed in righteousness, and gathered into the joyous fulfilment of God's desire. For the coming of that day on this day, we work and pray: Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

## GLORIA PATRI

(music only, not sung)

## FOCUS SCRIPTURE Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

MESSAGE: “Hope Revived, Hope Restored!”

Pastor Burtnett

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER**

**AFFIRMING OUR GIFTS**

**\*DOXOLOGY** (music only, not sung) Words #44

**\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (prayed together)

Faithful One, accept the gifts of our hearts and hands. May they be multiplied and magnified as the living presence of Christ in the world. Amen.

**\*CLOSING SONG** "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" #153

**GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**POSTLUDE**

The Call to Worship, Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession (adapted) and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Opening Prayer (adapted) & Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) are from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Affirmation of Faith is by Nathan Nettleton.

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

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November Radio Sponsor: Gregg and Julie Buchanan

Birthdays:

You are invited to read the other two lectionary scriptures for today.  
1 Cor 1:3-9 and Mk 13:24-37

Please send your pledge cards to the church by the end of this year.  
The December through February Our Daily Bread booklets are in the Fellowship hall entry.  
Please call the office if you can't come to get one and the office will try to get one to you.  
The newsletter articles for December and January need to be in the office by the 30<sup>th</sup> of November.  
Donations for the Christmas family are due in the office by December 6<sup>th</sup>.

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



**"Where No One Is A Stranger"**

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