

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
Algona, Iowa  
Second Sunday of Advent  
December 6, 2020

## PRELUDE

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

### LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE

Leader: O Holy One, we light this second candle, a candle offering comfort to weary spirits after a year of pain and loss. Let its glow remind us of your tender care and warm our lives in the Light of Peace. Let it guide us to your presence in our midst, leading us to your Justice and Joy in the service of Love.

**People: God be with us in this Light of Peace.** (*light your second Advent Candle*)

### CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: Let us hear what God will speak, tender words for a burdened people:

**Many: Comfort, comfort, my people! The days of sorrow are ending!**

One: Let us hear what God will speak, encouraging words for an anxious people:

**Many: Prepare a way for the Holy One, through deserts of despair build a highway for our God!**

One: Let us hear what God will speak, words of vision for a weary people:

**Many: Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss!**

One: Come, let us worship!

**\*OPENING SONG** “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

#154

### OPENING PRAYER

(read together)

Holy God, you are tender shepherd, architect of the Way, beguiling hope of all who go looking for you deep in their lives. Surprise us here with sweetness, challenge, vision—whatever we may need in this moment to recognize you and follow you into the future. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Beloved. Amen.

## CALL TO CONFESSION

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(read together)

God of love and kindness, you have promised to renew our lives, to be with us in a new heaven and a new earth—a realm where steadfast love and faithfulness embrace forever. Yet we are afraid of your promised coming. We cling to rules we understand: the rules of privilege and power. We are afraid of a world of true justice and peace, afraid that you will change the way things have always been.

Forgive us and correct our wandering ways. Breathe your grace into our lives and give us the confidence to shout for all the world to hear: “Here is our God!” Amen.

## SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

One: In God’s steadfast love and mercy, we are given each new day for the healing of the world.

**Many: In the name of Jesus, assured of God’s favor, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

### FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Mark 1:1-8

### \* AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

We are an Advent people, a people of hope. For us, Advent is a time of waiting, and so we wait. We wait for the coming of the One who is the fulfillment of God’s promise, the fulfillment of hope, the declaration that we have been redeemed.

Even so, we are not a naïve people. We know that the world in which we live will continue to be filled with pain and sorrow. We know that hatred and violence will continue to exist.

We know that death and separation will continue to be a part of our lives. But because we are an Advent people, we know that none of these things will win in the end. The Holy One is coming, to make holy once again all that was, is, and ever will be. And in our waiting and our hoping, we work and worship, pray and play, in all things hoping that peace, love and joy will reign in our lives and in our world, now and forever. Amen.

## GLORIA PATRI

(music only, not sung)

### FOCUS SCRIPTURE Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

read from the *Common English Bible*

**MESSAGE:** “Speaking Peace”

Pastor Burtnett

## GATHERING AT THE TABLE

Invitation, Communion Prayer, Sanctus, Words of Institution, Prayer of Consecration, Lord’s Prayer, Sharing the Bread and Cup

First Congregational Church  
 United Church of Christ  
 Algona, Iowa

**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**

Bountiful God, we thank you that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**AFFIRMING OUR GIFTS**

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

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

Faithful God, 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** “Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates” #176

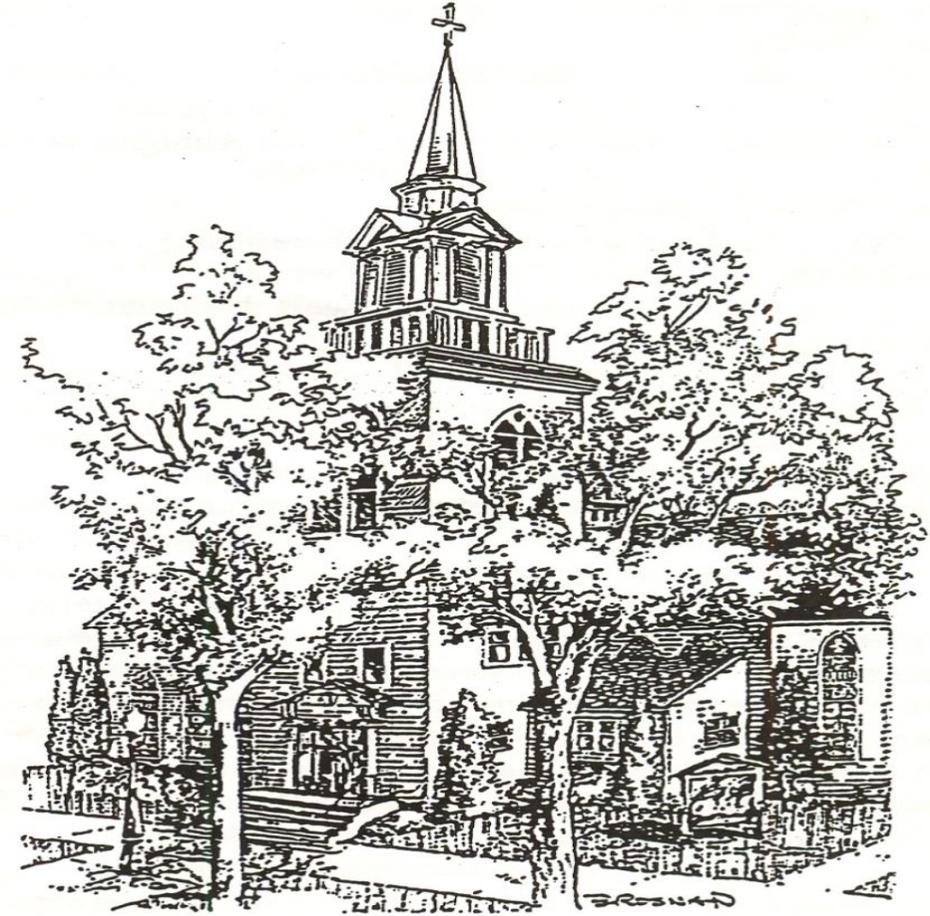
**GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**POSTLUDE**

The Advent Candle Lighting, Call to Worship, Opening Prayer (adapted) & Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) are from *Worship Ways- Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Call to Confession (adapted) is by Rev. Nathan Williams, Covenant Presbyterian Church, West Des Moines, Ia. The Prayer of Confession (adapted) and Words of Assurance (adapted) are from *The Abingdon Worship Annuals of 2011 and 2014* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu. The Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving is from the *Book of Worship-United Church of Christ*. The Affirmation of Faith is by Rev. Rebecca F. Harrison, Transitional Pastor, Spanish Springs Presbyterian Church, Sparks, NV.

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

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“Where No One Is A Stranger”

315 S. Moore Street – Algona, IA 50511

515-295-2845

December Radio Sponsor: Mick and Kris Schlievert

Birthdays: 12-6 Gary Walker, Paige Walker, 12-8 Connie Schwab

You are invited to read the other two lectionary scriptures for today.  
Isa 40:1-11 and 2 Peter 3:8-15a

Today is the last day to donate to the Christmas family.

The board will meet via Zoom at 7 pm this coming Wednesday.

All pledge cards should be in the office by the end of this month.

The new Our Daily Bread for Christmas is out in the Fellowship hall entry. If you can't come to the church let the office know if you would like one delivered to you.

The donation box for hats, scarves etc. is on the bench in the Fellowship hall entry.

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