

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
Algona, Iowa  
Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 20, 2020

## PRELUDE

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE

One: Holy One, we light this fourth candle and marvel at your desire to be one with us. Let its flame summon hearts grown cold into the warmth of a people living in The Light of Love. Fill our lives with Love, making room there for friends and strangers, all who desire to know you, God with us, as we work for justice and peace in the service of Hope.

**Many: God be with us in this Light of Love.** *(light your fourth Advent Candle)*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: Magnify God, for God is worthy to be praised!

**Many: Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!**

One: God has done great things for us!

**Many: Holy is God's name!**

One: God's love fills us up, nourishing our hungry souls.

**Many: God's grace has called us to this time of worship, strengthening our lives of faith!**

**\*OPENING SONG** "Blessed Be the God of Israel"

#158

## OPENING PRAYER

(read together)

**O Wondrous God, send your Messenger to us today with a word of grace. If we are fearful, move us to confidence. If we are weary, offer us rest. If we are empty, fill us with hope. We have been searching for you far away. Let us find you at home in our midst, changing hearts and minds, urging us to join your work of love. We pray in the name of the One who is coming, Jesus, the Christ. Amen.**

## CALL TO CONFESSION

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(read together)

**Compassionate, Forgiving God, we trespass on your mercy and take your favor for granted. We think only of ourselves. We forget the lessons of those who came before us, and ignore our responsibility to those who will follow us. We grow proud and seek power. We do not see the destruction of our actions and how it distances us from you. We do not recognize our hunger for what it is, or where it leads us. We grow faint. Forgive us and bring us home to you. Amen.**

## SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

One: Our God, who has been with the people since the beginning, is with us now offering grace that is more than we can ask or imagine.

**Many: God's love frees us from the past, and helps us move forward into a new future.**

**Thanks be to God-with-Us, Emmanuel, for faithful love. Amen.**

## FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Luke 1:46b-55

## \* AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

**We believe in God, who is love, whose love is manifest in all Creation, in our lives, and in all people.**

**We follow Christ, who embodied God's love. In his life and ministry, his death and resurrection, and his granting to us of his Spirit, he filled us with that love as well.**

**We live by the Spirit, the presence of God's love in us. In that love we participate in the Church, Body of Christ, in loving God by loving our neighbors through our prayers, our presence, our gifts and our service.**

**Love is our faith, and it is a gift from God. We thank God, and ask God's blessings, that we may love in the name of Christ and the power of the Spirit, to God's glory. Amen**

## GLORIA PATRI

(music only, not sung)

## FOCUS SCRIPTURE 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

read from *The Message*

## MESSAGE: "Rock Solid"

Pastor Burnett

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

## AFFIRMING OUR GIFTS

## \*DOXOLOGY

(music only, not sung) Words #44

**\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (prayed together)  
God only Wise, accept our offerings, the fruit of our labor and lives in obedience of our faith, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever. Amen.

**\*CLOSING SONG** “All Earth Is Hopeful” #163

**GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**POSTLUDE**

The Advent Candle Lighting liturgy, Opening Prayer and Words of Assurance, are from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Call to Worship (adapted) is from *The Abingdon Worship Annual-2020* edited by Mary J. Scifres & B. J. Beu. The Prayer of Confession and Offering Prayer of Dedication are from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2011* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu. The Call to Confession is from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Affirmation of Faith is by Steve Garnass-Holmes.

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

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December Radio Sponsor: Mick and Kris Schlievert

Birthdays: 12/24 John Norman

You are invited to read the other two lectionary scriptures for today.

Rom 16:25-27 and Luke 1:26-38

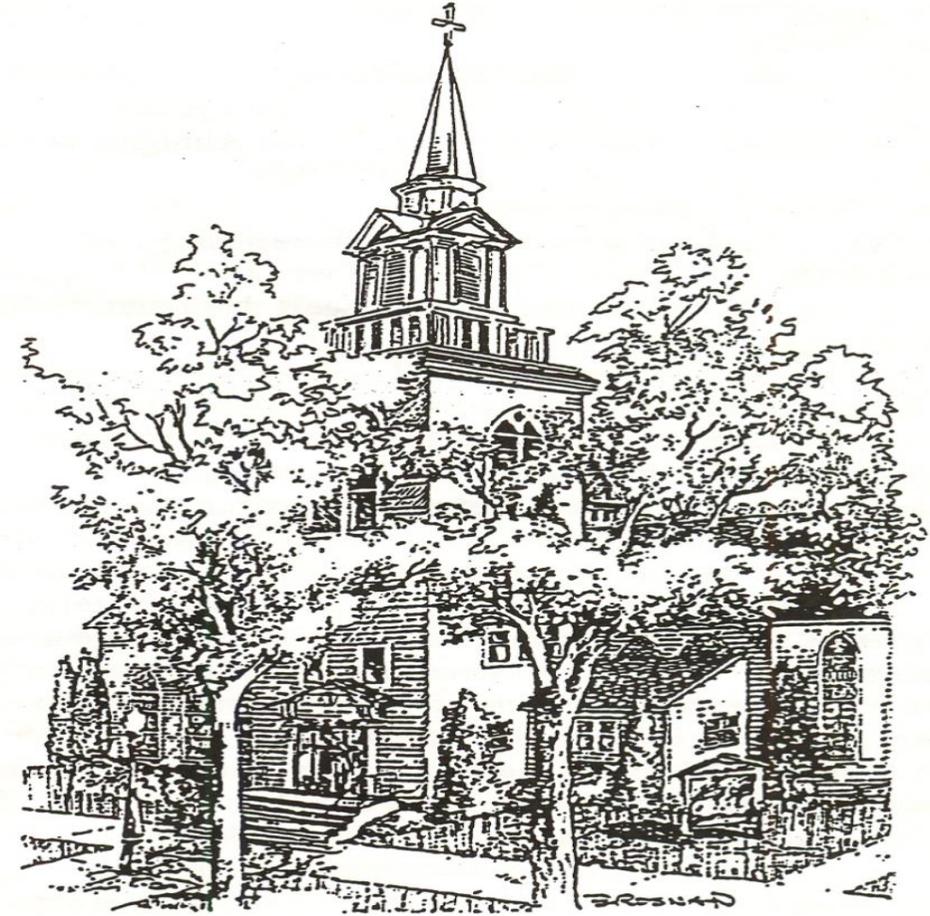
The December through February Our Daily Bread booklets are in the Fellowship hall entry.

Please call the office if you can't come to get one and the office will try to get one to you.

Today we will be taking contributions for the Christmas Fund Offerings.

The hat, mitten, etc. box is in the Fellowship hall entry. The items we receive will go to the Care Team at the end of the year.

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Algona, Iowa**



**“Where No One Is A Stranger”**

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