

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
Algona, Iowa  
First Sunday after Christmas  
December 27, 2020

## PRELUDE

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

Leader: Rejoice in God, who is our life and salvation!

**People: Christ has come to make us heirs of God's promises!**

Leader: Praise God from highest heaven!

**People: Praise God, all people of the earth!**

Leader: Sing of God's glory; shout your praise!

**People: God has made us heirs of promise. We will praise God's holy name!**

## \*OPENING SONG "He Is Born"

#201

## OPENING PRAYER

(read together)

Faithful God, by your Spirit all people and places become holy. Lead us by that Spirit today. We worship today, celebrating a birth that offers us rebirth. We come before you that you might claim us as heirs, with Jesus, of eternal life. Unite our hearts and minds in a chorus of praise, that the life of Christ's church might be strengthened, renewed, and refocused. Guide us, that we may become a more faithful people. Amen

## CALL TO CONFESSION

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(read together)

We bring our prayers to you, gracious God, sensing that there is more to life than the ways we have known. We are drawn to the Messiah, yet we shrink from following where faith leads. We are afraid of what we might lose if we are guided by the Spirit. Thoughts of sacrifice and servanthood are not appealing to us. We are reluctant to enter into a close relationship with you. We think we know better than you, what is best for us. Forgive our arrogance. Help us see the Christ. Amen.

## SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

Leader: Rejoice in God! We have been clothed in garments of salvation. They fit better than anything we have known.

**People: The robes of faithfulness are not heavy burdens, but offer a freedom we have not felt before. We are a new creation in the hands of our loving God. Thanks be to God! We are forgiven!**

## FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:22-40

## \* AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

We know that God is in the world—was and is and will be. God made it all and continues to renew, remake, and resurrect. We know God best in the life of Jesus, who was and is our maker of hope, the one who saves. We know the power and energy of God in the Holy Spirit. We are filled with God's joy and pledged to discipleship and love. We trust in God. We celebrate God. We work together for justice and peace through God. We are never alone. We are free in the chosen bonds of the ways of Christ. Thanks be to God! Amen.

## GLORIA PATRI

(music only, not sung)

## FOCUS SCRIPTURE Isaiah 61:10-62:3

read from the *Common English Bible*

## MESSAGE: "Reaffirmed, Redeemed, Renamed"

Pastor Burtnett

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

## AFFIRMING OUR GIFTS

## \*DOXOLOGY

(music only, not sung) Words #44

## \* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

(prayed together)

Gracious God, in gratitude and praise we offer our gifts. We dedicate our labor, our industry, and our very selves to the building of your realm. May our gifts go forth to a world in need, that others may discover your saving love. Amen.

## \*CLOSING SONG "Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

#218

## GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST

## POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship (adapted), Opening Prayer (adapted) Call to Confession (adapted), Prayer of Confession (adapted) and Words of Assurance (adapted), are from *Led By Love -Worship Resources for Year B* by Lavon Bayler. The Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) is from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2020* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu. The Affirmation of Faith is by Mary Sue Gast and Roger D. Straw from *Flames of the Spirit, Resources for Worship Like Bread for the Journey* edited by Ruth C. Duck

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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:  
You are invited to read the other two lectionary scriptures for today.  
Ps 148 and Gal 4:4-7

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.

For those wishing to send condolences to Judy Adams on the recent passing of Bob, her address is Judith Adams  
2731 Cedar Street, Apt. 101  
Norwalk, IA 50211-9776

# 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