

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
Algona, Iowa  
Second Sunday After Christmas/Epiphany  
Sunday  
January 3, 2021

## PRELUDE

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: Light has broken in on the darkness of the world.

Many: **We are called out of that darkness into light.**

One: Open your eyes and look around.

Many: **We will open the eyes of our heart and light the light within;**

One: Let's worship the God of light, joy, and peace.

Many: **Today, as we worship, tomorrow as we go about our day, in the week ahead, and the rest of our lives, we will let the Light lead us.**

**\*OPENING SONG** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

#154

## OPENING PRAYER

(read together)

God of promise and light, open our eyes in this time of worship, that we may see your light in the darkness. Open our hearts, that we may perceive your promises of justice and righteousness fulfilled in Jesus. May we be guided by your Light on our quest to find the One who will truly set us free. May this time of worship bring us closer to you, that the good news of the birth of light and love will transform our lives. Amen.

## CALL TO CONFESSION

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(read together)

God of all people, we confess that we are often more impressed with famous people than we are of your amazing glory. The rulers of this earth are more real to us than the One who reigns over time and eternity. Your priorities are not foremost in our lives. We reach for power and popularity more than justice for the poor. We are more focused on prosperity than on relief for the oppressed. Our pursuits do not satisfy; save us from their fragmenting grip in our lives. Cause a new epiphany among us, we pray. Amen.

## SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

One: As certain as the dawn follows the night, so is the promise of God's forgiveness and love for us all.

Many: **We will arise and shine for the light of the world has been born in Bethlehem, transforming us from darkness into light. Thanks be to God!**

## FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 2:1-12

## \* AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

We believe in God, the creator and giver of life, who brought all creation to birth, who mothers us and fathers us, protecting, nurturing, and cherishing us.

We believe in Jesus Christ: God born among us as a fragile baby, embodying both love and the need for love, and calling us to rest in God as trustingly as a tiny child.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, breathed into us at our birth, always drawing us on to be born again, encouraging, exhorting, comforting, nourishing our growth and inspiring our living.

We believe in the reconciliation of the world to God, through Christ. Hunted at birth and humiliated at death, Christ entered our fearful darkness so that we might enter his glorious light and share the life of his resurrection.

We believe that each new child is a glimpse of the face of God, a sign of the life to come, and a call to live in peace and celebrate living together. Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. Amen.

## GLORIA PATRI

(music only, not sung)

**FOCUS SCRIPTURE** Isaiah 60:1-6 read from *The Message*

**MESSAGE:** "Wake Up!"

Pastor Burtnett

## GATHERING AT THE TABLE

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

## 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**

Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior’s presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by this bread and cup that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that your universal church may shine your light into an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, we pray. Amen.

**AFFIRMING OUR GIFTS**

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

God of light and promise, accept our gifts of money, time, and our very selves. Bless them, that they might bring your light for all to see, furthering your work in a dark world. Amen.

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

**\*CLOSING SONG** We Three Kings” #233 verses 1 & 5

**GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

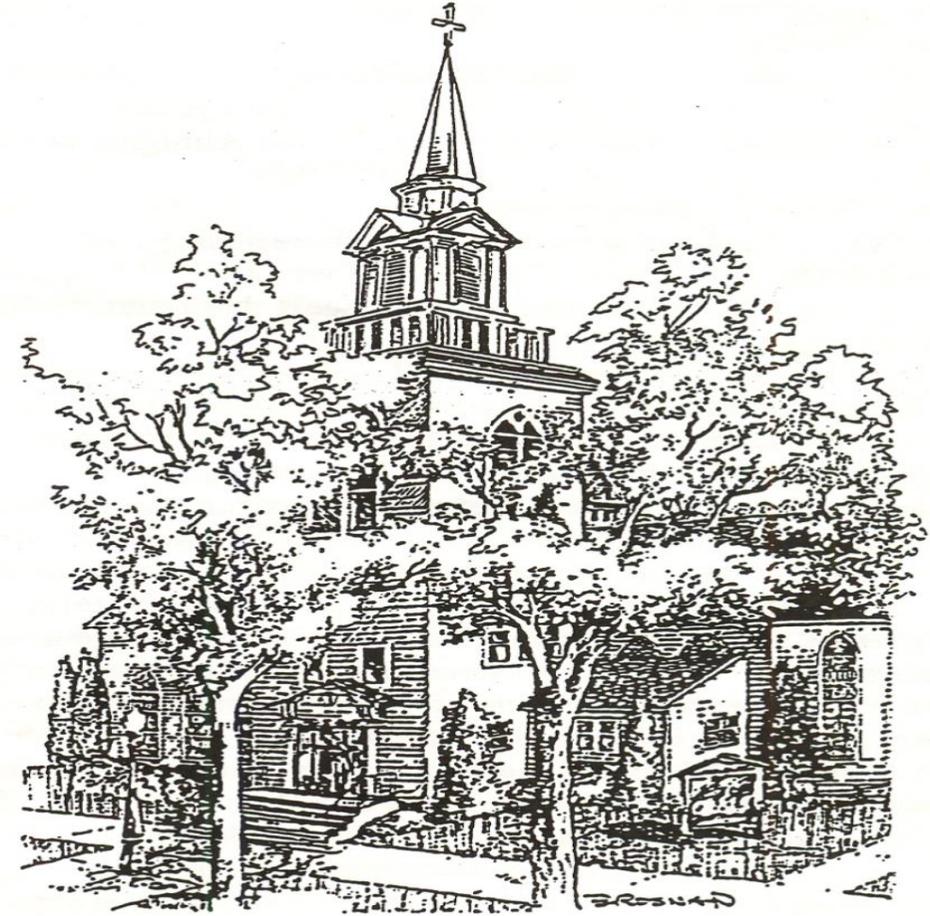
**POSTLUDE**

The Call to Worship (adapted), Opening Prayer (adapted), Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted), and Words of Assurance (adapted) are from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2020* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu. The Call to Confession (adapted), Prayer of Confession (adapted) are from *Led By Love -Worship Resources for Year B* by Lavon Bayler. The Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving (adapted) is from the *Book of Worship-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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January Radio Sponsor: Marilyn Deal  
Please let the office know if you are interested in sponsoring a radio broadcast this year. February is already full.  
Annual reports are due in the office by January 18. The annual meeting will be January 31 by Zoom.  
To my secret Santa or Santas, I thank you for the very generous gift. It is much appreciated and needed.  
God bless all of you. I hope your holidays are as pleasant as mine. Nany Walker.

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Algona, Iowa**



**“Where No One Is A Stranger”**

**315 S. Moore Street – Algona, IA 50511**

**515-295-2845**