

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
Algona, Iowa  
Second Sunday After Epiphany/Baptism of  
Christ Sunday  
January 17, 2021

## PRELUDE

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: In the silence of a lonely night, in the songs children sing in the morning, God calls to us.

**Many: We are here, God who is always with us, listening for your words of life and love.**

One: When we would decide to go it alone, when we think no good can be found anywhere, Jesus calls to us.

**Many: We are here, Friend who knows our longings, ready to come and see where you would lead us.**

One: When we think we have license to do whatever we want, when we are convinced we need no map, the Spirit calls to us.

**Many: We are here, Peace we are longing for, so that we might help others find the way to life.**

**\*OPENING SONG** “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” #68 verses 1 & 3

## OPENING PRAYER

(read together)

Creating God, how deeply you know us. In the mystery of your love, you see who we are and who we might become. We are your creation, wonderfully made. Our minds reflect your handiwork. Our spirits are a gift from you. You call us by name and invite us to follow. Lead us now into the depths of your love. Amen.

## CALL TO CONFESSION

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(read together)

Because we are so focused on ourselves, God of every life, it is hard to see the lives which others endure. When we are so worried about how the economy will affect us, we do not notice those in need around us. As we grumble about our aches and pains, and about how difficult it is to get out of the bed each day, we easily ignore the broken. Forgive us, God of goodness and grace. Speak to us of healing, so we might bring help

to others. Speak to us of grace, so hearing, we may share it with everyone we meet. Speak to us of love and life, so we may offer it as freely as Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, brought it to us. Amen.

## SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

One: Come and see! God’s grace is poured out on everyone, God’s hope is freely shared in every moment, forgiveness is the gift which mends our foolish lives.

**Many: Thanks be to God. We are surrounded by God’s love and mercy, now and to the very end! Amen.**

## FIRST SCRIPTURE READING John 1:43-51

## \* AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

**We trust in God, Spirit of life, Creator of all that is and all that is to come; who surrounds us and fills us; who speaks the Word of life in us; and so we listen.**

**We listen to Jesus, Revealer of God, our brother and teacher; who lived in prayer and in love. Listening to God’s voice and doing God’s will, he gave his life in love; but God raised him to life that is eternal; and so we follow him.**

**We follow in the power of the Holy Spirit, God alive in us, for the sake of the healing of the world.**

**We trust in the power of forgiveness, the reality of resurrection, the gift of the universal church as the body of Christ, and the mystery of eternal life. Amen.**

## GLORIA PATRI

(music only, not sung)

## FOCUS SCRIPTURE

1 Samuel 3:1-10

read from *The Message*

**MESSAGE:** “It Takes Persistence”

Pastor Burtnett

## THE LORD’S PRAYER

## AFFIRMING OUR GIFTS

## \* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

(prayed together)

**Source of all Goodness, we bring our offerings to you knowing that all we have comes from you. We hear your call and answer, bringing all that we have and all that we are.**

**Use our gifts, our talents, and our bodies for your work of peace and justice. Amen.**

## \*DOXOLOGY

(music only, not sung) Words #44

\*CLOSING SONG

“Lord, Speak to Me”

#593 verses 1 & 4

**GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**POSTLUDE**

The Call to Worship, Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman The Opening Prayer (adapted) and Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) are from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2021* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu. The Affirmation of Faith is by Steve Garnaas-Holmes.

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

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January Radio Sponsor: Marilyn Deal

Birthdays:

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

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 and 1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 6:12-20

The Annual meeting will be held this month on the 31<sup>st</sup> at 11:00 am via Zoom. The link to the meeting will be e-mailed to members January 28<sup>th</sup>.

Annual reports are needed in the office by the 18<sup>th</sup> of January.

February and March newsletter articles are due in the office by January 25<sup>th</sup>.

Pledges are still being accepted. Let the office know if you wish to do so.

Radio sponsors for this new year are needed. January, February and August are taken already. Let the office know if you would like to sign up for a particular month.

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



**“Where No One Is A Stranger”**

315 S. Moore Street – Algona, IA 50511

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