

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
Algona, Iowa  
Third Sunday After Epiphany  
January 24, 2021

## PRELUDE

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

Leader: Come, with undivided attention, to meet God, who calls us away from our old routines.

**People: Our souls wait for God in silence, we hope in God, our rock and salvation.**

Leader: Come without anxiety or fear, for God cares for you.

**People: We come with devotion to our Sovereign, in whom time is fulfilled and life has meaning.**

Leader: Enter God's realm, which is here and now, and beyond time and place.

**People: We come now, to worship God, whom we trust and honor.**

### \*OPENING SONG

"Come, We That Love the Lord"

#67 verses 1 & 4

### OPENING PRAYER

(read together)

We await your message, God. Sometimes we do not like what we hear, but we know we need to listen. Your message is inclusive and fair. You call us out of our comfort zones to do new things and try better ways. You direct us to reach out to people with whom we seem to have little in common. Speak your truth to us in this time of worship so we can carry it to places you want us to go, to the people you are eager to reach. Amen.

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(read together)

We confess, God, that we trust our narrow understandings rather than seek your will. We have taken our direction from the world rather than question the way things are ordered here. We have put our confidence in riches and worldly status. We have closed our ears to your call and, when we have heard that call, defied it. Even when we have followed we have resisted evidence of your activity in our midst. Forgive us, and save us from ourselves. Amen.

## SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

Leader: Now, after we confess, we hear the good news proclaimed: God hears our words, God sees our changed hearts, God's steadfast love is poured out upon us!

**One: We will trust in God, in whom our salvation rests. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.**

### FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Mark 1:14-20

### \* AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

**I believe in an innovative God, who does not wait for us to find ourselves but comes seeking the lost and calling us into a new way.**

**I believe in Jesus of Nazareth as God's crucial initiative, that when he calls us to follow, Christ also gives us the power to become, both in creed and deed, the children of the living God.**

**I believe in the Spirit by whom Jesus still comes to us, calling us to follow him into an obedience which is true liberty and to a humble service which is the fruit of holy friendship.**

**I believe in the church as the fellowship of Christ's people, called to respect and support one another through joys and tribulations as we travel the road towards the "promised land" of God's future.**

**Because Christ has called me, in this I truly believe. Amen.**

### GLORIA PATRI

(music only, not sung)

### FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

read from *The Message*

### MESSAGE: "Are You Serious?"

Pastor Burtnett

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

### AFFIRMING OUR GIFTS

### \* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

(prayed together)

**God of abundance, may our offerings be symbols of our faith in your bounty and our commitment to follow your call in our lives, wherever you may lead. Amen.**

### \*DOXOLOGY

(music only, not sung) Words #44

### \*CLOSING SONG: "For the Healing of the Nations"

#621 verses 1 & 4

First Congregational Church  
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Algona, Iowa

GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship (adapted) and Prayer of Confession (adapted) are from *Whispers of God, Liturgical Resources for Year B* by Lavon Bayler. The Opening Prayer (adapted) is from *Led By Love, Worship Resources for Year B* by Lavon Bayler. The Call to Confession and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) is from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2021* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu. The Affirmation of Faith is by Bruce Prewer.

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Organist: Liz Reynolds  
Lector: David Burrow  
Worship Leader: Pastor Chris Burtnett  
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January Radio Sponsor: Marilyn Deal

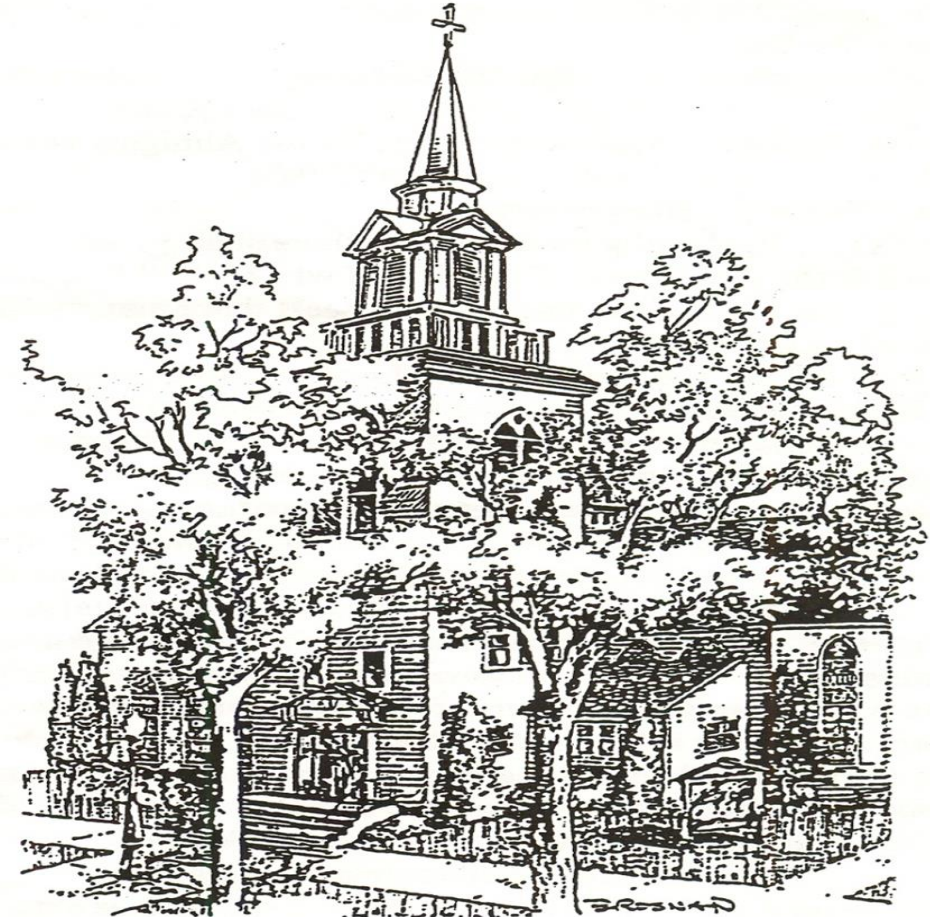
Birthdays: 1-24 Janice Morey, 1-26 Chuck West

You are invited to read the other two lectionary scriptures for today.  
Psalm 62:5-12 and 1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 7:29-31

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>.

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

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.



“Where No One Is A Stranger”

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