

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
Algona, Iowa  
Fourth Sunday After Epiphany  
January 31, 2021

## PRELUDE

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Praise God, who loves us all.

Many: Praise God, who is full of mercy and compassion.

One: Praise God, who loves us well.

Many: Praise God, who creates honesty and justice.

One: Praise God, who invites us to love.

Many: Praise God, who loves through us and our actions.

One: Let's worship God.

**\*OPENING SONG** "All Creatures of Our God and King" #23 verses 1 & 5

**OPENING PRAYER** (read together)

Loving God, love through us as we worship your holy name. Love through us, as we listen for your holy word. Love through us, as we live your teachings and offer your love to the world. In your majestic name we pray. Amen.

## CALL TO CONFESSION

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (read together)

Merciful God, deliver us from knowledge that puffs us up and makes us insensitive to others' needs. We confess that sometimes our freedom has offended another's conscience and our carelessness has caused others to stumble and fall. Our actions have not been consistent with what we say we believe. Forgive us and restore us to a meaningful covenant with you and other seekers after your truth. Amen.

## SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE** (read responsively)

One: We don't know everything, but we know who God is – the One who comes to love us, to forgive us, and to save us.

Many: Thanks be to God. We will spread this good news, and share this grace and hope, with everyone we meet. Amen.

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING** Mark 1:21-28

**\* 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** Psalm 111 read from the *Good News Bible*

**MESSAGE:** "When Wisdom Begins" Pastor Burtnett

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

## AFFIRMING OUR GIFTS

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

Holy God, we offer our gifts to you out of gratitude and love. Bless them that they may become acts of love and grace. Bless us, that we may transform the world with love and grace. Amen.

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

**\*CLOSING SONG:** "Eternal Light, Shine In My Heart" #418 verses 1& 2 (sung to tune ) of #144

**GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**POSTLUDE**

The Call to Worship (adapted), Opening Prayer and Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) are from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2021* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu. The Prayer of Confession (adapted) is from *Whispers of God, Liturgical Resources for Year B* by Lavon Bayler. The Call to Confession and Words of Assurance (adapted) are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. 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: 2-1 Carol Kenyon, 2-4 Laurel Walker

You are invited to read the other two lectionary scriptures for today.  
Deut.18:15-20 and 1 Cor 8:1-13

The Annual meeting will be held today Sunday the 31st at 11 pm via Zoom.

February and March newsletter articles are due in the office by Feb. 2<sup>nd</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.

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



**“Where No One Is A Stranger”**

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