

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
Algona, Iowa  
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany  
February 7, 2021

## PRELUDE

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

Leader: We gather to worship God, whose creative imagination never fails:

**People: For the sake of God, we will search for the outcasts.**

Leader: We gather to praise our God, whose steadfast love never weakens:

**People: For the sake of Jesus, we will lift up all who have fallen.**

Leader: We gather to offer our best to God, who walks with us through eternity:

**People: For the sake of the Holy Spirit, we will walk with the weary.**

**\*OPENING SONG** “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” #71 verses 1 & 4

## OPENING PRAYER

(read together)

Holy One, with our ancestors and all the people of God, we gather to sing your praises. You are the one who has created the cosmos and the ants. You give food to whales and sparrows, name the stars, and count the hairs on our heads. Compassionate One, we offer you our thanksgiving for your many blessings. Powerful One, inspire us this day; to turn our praise into action, to share your good news with those who long to hear your word of hope, to proclaim your message of peace and justice throughout the world. Amen.

## CALL TO CONFESSION

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(read together)

We cannot hide from you, Everlasting God, even if we were to go from one edge of creation to the next. You speak to us of compassion, but the ways in which we treat others show we have not been listening. You explain your hopes to us, and we act as if we don't have a clue as to what is going on. We run as fast, and as far, from you as we can, and wonder why we have no energy to follow Jesus. Yet you search for us in all the deserted places we flee to, Never-wearied God, so you can take us by the hand to show us the way to life with you. You heal our broken hearts

so we can offer them to others. You fill us with your strength so we can bind ourselves to Jesus, our Savior, following him to serve all of your children. Amen.

## SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

Leader: Have you not been listening. God never tires out, nor is there is an expiration date on God's forgiveness. God is ever with us, healing us with mercy, and strengthening us for service.

**People: If God numbers the stars, surely our names are known by the One who loves us and offers us grace. This is indeed good news for all! Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Mark 1:29-39

## AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

We trust in God, the Creator Spirit who moved upon the face of the deep at the beginning of creation, who created all that is, and who spoke through the prophets of old.

We trust in Jesus Christ into whom God's spirit was poured in fullness and in power, that the whole creation might be restored and unified; and who promised that the Spirit would come and fill the faithful with power to witness to the mighty love of God. We await on that Spirit today with longing hearts, seeking to be empowered to the witness to God's love, with fresh words and courageous actions of love and hope. Glory be to God – Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit – now and always. Amen.

## GLORIA PATRI

#734

**FOCUS SCRIPTURE** Isaiah 40:21-31 read from the *Common English Bible*

**MESSAGE:** “Of Course We Know!”

Pastor Burtnett

## GATHERING AT THE TABLE

Invitation, Communion Prayer, Sanctus, Words of Institution, Prayer of Consecration, Lord's Prayer, Partaking 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**

Thank you, Jesus, for this feast of life. We are fed by your love; we are strengthened by your life. We are sent forth into this world to live into the visions God has laid on our hearts. We are now commissioned to: feed as we have been fed, forgive as we have been forgiven, love as we have been loved. Thanks be to God. Amen.

**AFFIRMING OUR GIFTS**

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

God of all that is, all we have, all we are – we give. We give our gifts as we reach across the thresholds of our concerns. We give our gifts, knowing that they will give so much more. Through Jesus Christ. Amen.

**DOXOLOGY** Words #44

**\*CLOSING SONG** “Come, All Christians, Be Committed” #459 verses 1 & 3

**GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**POSTLUDE**

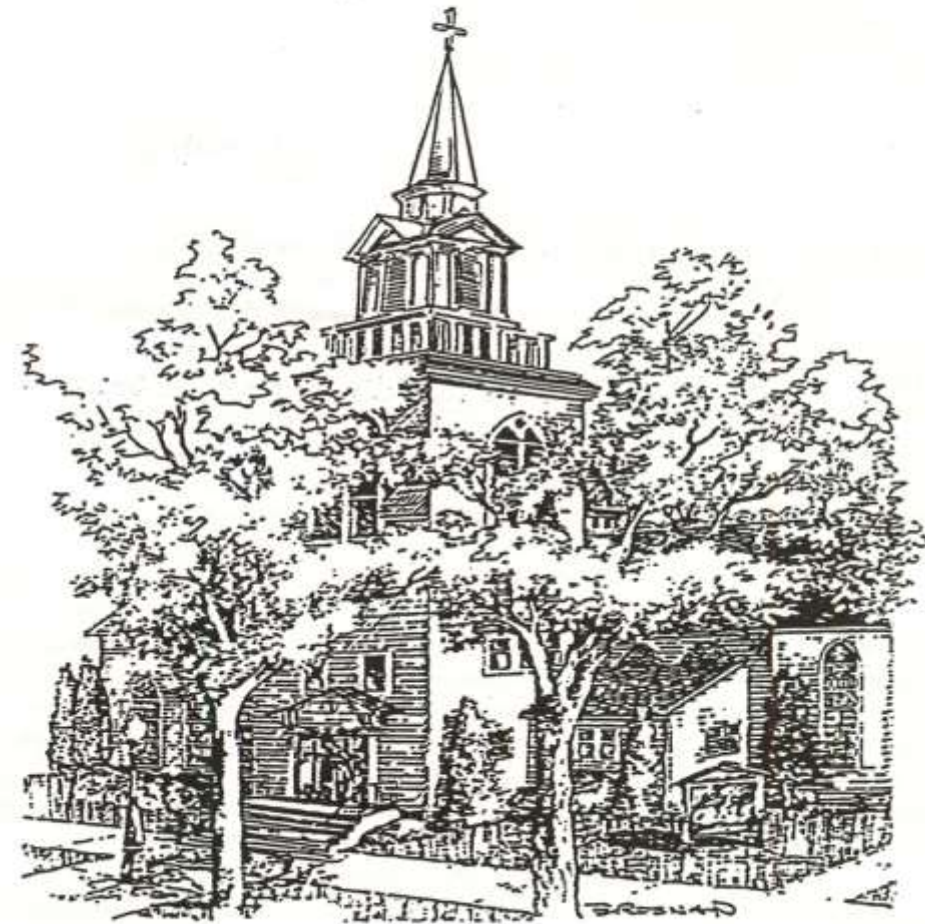
The Call to Worship, Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Opening Prayer and Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) are from *Worship Ways, Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Affirmation of Faith is by Bruce Prewer. The Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving is from the United Church of Canada.

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Organist: Liz Reynolds  
Lector: David Burrow  
Worship Leader: Pastor Chris Burtnett  
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February Radio Sponsor: David Burrow  
Birthdays- Feb. 7-Josephine Reynolds; 8-Robin Rochleau; 13-Wayne Clegg

Board Meeting, this Wednesday, 7:00 PM via Zoom.  
The February/March Newsletter will be sent later this week.  
If you wish to send condolence cards to Meredith Hines & Geoff Buchanan, their addresses are:  
Meredith & Jeff Hines, 9 College Circle, Mason City, IA, 50401  
Geoff Buchanan, 118 E. 12<sup>th</sup> St., Pella, IA, 50219

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**“Where No One Is A Stranger”**

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

**515-295-2845**