

First Congregational United Church of Christ
“Where No One Is a Stranger”
First Sunday in Advent
November 28, 2021
315 S. Moore Street
Algona, IA 50511

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

Lighting the Advent Candle

One: This morning we begin the season of Advent by lighting the first of five candles in our Advent Wreath. This candle we shall name the prophets’ candle. From ancient and modern prophets we hear of the coming Savior. Sometimes prophetic words are hard to believe. We are uncertain of their truth. We must wait and be patient. In honor of all the prophets, we light this candle.

(a purple candle is lit)

Prayer

God of the Prophets, give us this day the prophetic word of hope, that in moments of despair we might look to you for comfort. We give you thanks for all the prophets past and present. Amen.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: Our promised salvation is at hand.

Many: A righteous branch has sprung forth, bringing hope to our world.

One: Our eyes have beheld the goodness and mercy of God.

Many: A Son has been given to us, bringing justice and virtue to our world.

One: Our hearts have felt the stirrings of God’s presence.

Many: The Spirit of truth is here to heal us, teaching us God’s ways.

One: Let’s worship the God of our salvation.

*OPENING SONG

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

#154

*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

Righteous one, your glory shines brighter than the sun. We remember your compassion and your faithful love, as we come to worship this day. Lift up our souls to face the challenges we face as we seek to bear the fruit of your salvation. May your righteous branch grow within our hearts, that our lives may abound in compassion and steadfast

love. May we be found ready and waiting when the one drawing near comes with power and glory to bring us to you. Amen.

TIME FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(prayed together)

The chances we have to be more compassionate; the moments to offer hope to a lonely friend; the good fortune we could give to those who have so little. The signs are all around us, Good and Upright God, of how we fail to live as your people.

Do not meditate on our bungling ways, God of steadfast love, but remember the mercy of Your heart. That mercy which forgives us; that mercy which makes us whole; and especially, that living mercy who came down one night so long ago, Jesus the Advent of our redemption. Amen.

SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

One: Raise your heads, children of God! In the bleak mid-winter of our lives, our redemption draws near. In the springtime of our doubts, the realm of God approaches.

Many: Even when we feel most alone, the One who comes to us is the salvation promised so long ago. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 21:25-36

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

We believe that God has come to us; that God brought us into being, that this God gave us breath and purpose, that we have been blessed to be a blessing to others, that we have fallen short of this commandment but that God has nevertheless loved us despite our brokenness.

We believe that God is coming to us; that God is not happy to leave us alone, that this God will come to us as a particular human being, that God will be made known to us in flesh and bone like ours, that Mary will soon give birth and Joseph will soon clap his hands in joy, that Jesus Christ will be born and our salvation made complete.

We believe that God will come to us; that God will have the final word and that Word will be good, that this God will give us the presence of the Spirit to continue our work, that we are called to be disciples to all the corners of the earth, that the day is coming when tears and pain will be no more, and all will gather at the Table to sing an endless and perfect “Alleluia!” Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI

#734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 33:14-16

read from the *Common English Bible*

MESSAGE

“The Words of the Prophets”

Pastor Chris

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD’S PRAYER

BRINGING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY**

Words #44

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

(prayed together)

Increase and enrich the gifts we bring before you this day, God. Send them out into the world as signs of the bounty of Jesus coming into the world. In your precious name we pray. Amen.

***CLOSING SONG**

“O Day of God, Draw Near”

insert

GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST

POSTLUDE

The Advent Candle liturgy is written by Cyril C. Colonus from *Touch Holiness-Resources for Worship* edited by Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi. *The Call to Worship* (adapted), *Opening Prayer* (adapted), and *Offering Prayer of Dedication* (adapted) are by B. J. Beu from *The Abingdon Worship Annual, 2021* edited by Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu. *The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, and Words of Assurance* are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Affirmation of Faith is written by Rev. Stephen M. Fearing - www.stephenmfearing.com.

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Organist:	Liz Reynolds
Lector:	David Burrows
Worship Leader:	Pastor Chris

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November Radio Sponsor: In Memory of Gregg Buchanan’s birthday. (November 23)

Birthdays: November 28 – Dennis Schwab

Today, November 28: 10:00 am. – Worship
Sunday School
Coffee

Tuesday, November 30: 9:30 – 11:30 am.- Pastor Chris at Feed Mill
Newsletter Deadline

December 2: 10 am. - Clergy Cluster at Humboldt

Sunday, December 5: 10:00 am. – Worship
Sunday School
Coffee
Food Pantry



First Sunday of Advent

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If you have not received a pledge card yet, they may be picked up at the church or sent to you. Please have your pledge cards returned to the church no later than December 5th. Thank you.

It is time to order Poinsettia. They are \$10.70 for a 6" pot. Please call the church office if you have ordered one and let Pam know who it is in honor/memory. We will be placing the order this Friday, December 3rd. If you would still like one after this date please pick one up yourself and let the church office know who you want it in honor or memory. of.

Sunday, December 5: 2-4pm - there will be a retirement open house for Pastor Mark Homer

The deadline to give to the Christmas Family fund is Sunday, December 5.

Sunday, December 12: - After worship service, cookie exchange, bring some goodies to share.

Sunday, December 12: 2-4 pm. - Retirement reception for Jean Menning 2-4 pm. at Algona First United Methodist Church. She will be retiring on December 31, 2021 from 42 years of service to Exceptional Opportunities.

December Sr. Center calendar and Meals on Wheels menu is posted on the Mission bulletin board.

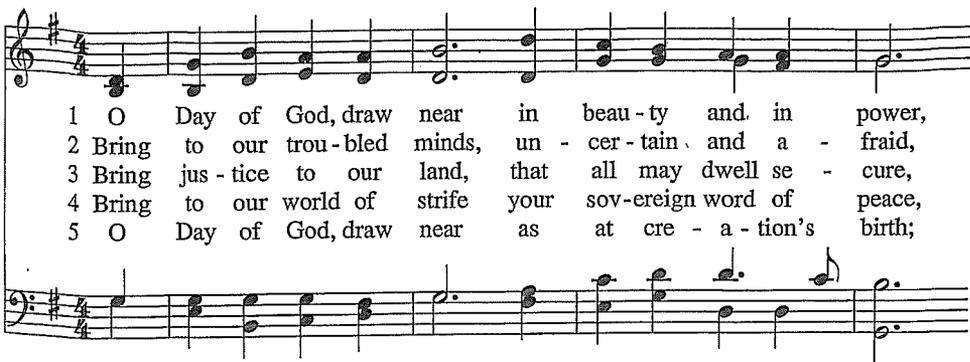
The "Our Daily Bread" for December, January, February is here. It may be picked up in the Fellowship entry.

O Day of God, Draw Near

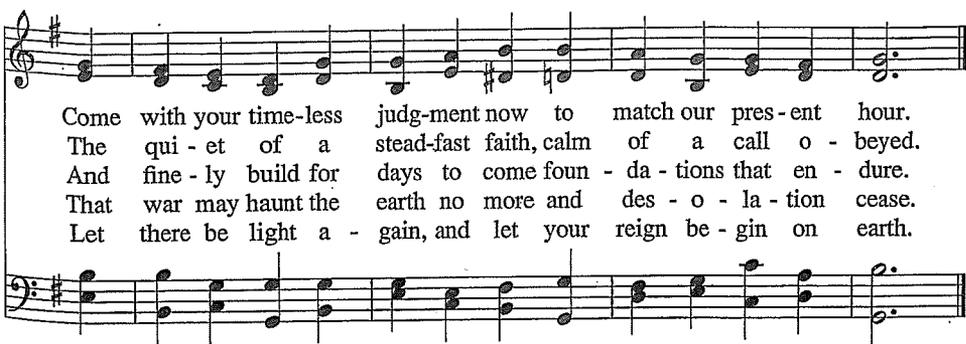
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R. B. Y. Scott, 1937; alt.

Ps. 105:7; 2 Pet. 3:8-15



1 O Day of God, draw near in beau - ty and in power,
2 Bring to our trou - bled minds, un - cer - tain, and a - fraid,
3 Bring jus - tice to our land, that all may dwell se - cure,
4 Bring to our world of strife your sov - ereign word of peace,
5 O Day of God, draw near as at cre - a - tion's birth;



Come with your time - less judg - ment now to match our pres - ent hour.
The qui - et of a stead - fast faith, calm of a call o - beyed.
And fine - ly build for days to come foun - da - tions that en - dure.
That war may haunt the earth no more and des - o - la - tion cease.
Let there be light a - gain, and let your reign be - gin on earth.

R. B. Y. Scott was a theologian, Old Testament scholar, and social reformer who taught at McGill University, Montreal, and at Princeton University. A minister in the United Church of Canada, he wrote this text in 1937 for the Fellowship for a Christian Social Order.

Tune: ST. MICHAEL S.M.
Trente quatre Pseaumes, Geneva, 1551
Adapt. William Crotch, 1836