

First Congregational United Church of Christ
"Where No One Is A Stranger"
Second Sunday after Christmas
January 2, 2022

PRELUDE
RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (read responsively)

One: Arise, shine! Your light has come!

Many: Glory to God in the highest!

One: Darkness covers the earth,

Many: but God's glory shines brightly.

One: Lift up your eyes. Look around.

Many: The light of God's love shines radiantly.

One: Arise, shine! Your light has come!

Many: Our hearts thrill and rejoice!

One: Let's worship God.

***OPENING SONG:** "Arise, Your Light Is Come" #231

***OPENING PRAYER** (prayed together)

God of light and love, shine upon our lives as we welcome the mystery of your love. Guide us toward your true gift, for our hearts long to encounter the holy. Quiet our expectations, that we might be surprised by the unexpected. Open our eyes, that we might find you in unanticipated places. Shine your light upon us that we might see you clearly, and recognize your face in all people. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (prayed together)

In the winter of our lives, Tender God, our passion for following Jesus wilts in the chill of indifference. We could walk in the light, but tiptoe through the shadows of missed chances. We could look for your glory in others, but gaze instead in the mirror of selfishness, seeing our desires staring back at us. We could gather the broken of the world to our side, but hold them at arm's length from us.

Forgive us, Redeeming Grace. Jesus was bringing life and hope to all people. With grace and truth, he calls us to follow. Filling us with peace, he gathers us up and brings us home to you, serving as our Brother, our Savior, our Friend. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

One: Grace upon grace; mercy upon mercy; hope upon hope: these are the gifts God pours out on us in this moment, and all the moments of our lives to come.

Many: Thanks be to God! We are filled to overflowing with God's tender love and peace. We are forgiven! Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 60:1-6

***AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** UCC Statement of Faith (read together)
(inside back cover of hymnal)

***GLORIA PATRI** #734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE Matthew 2:1-12 Shared from the *Common English Bible*

MESSAGE: "The Epiphanies" Pastor Chris

GATHERING AT CHRIST'S TABLE Invitation, Communion Prayer, Sanctus, Words of Institution, Consecration Prayer, Lord's Prayer, Sharing 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

God of Light and Love, we cherish this table in this season when the nights are long and cold. Through this meal, the Christ, and our neighbors, our hearts have warmed. May the comfort in our souls sustain us through winter and nudge us to create welcoming spaces for our neighbors. With gratitude, we leave here energized to kindle your love in this world. Amen.

PRESENTING OUR OFFERINGS
OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

For the joy of giving, we offer these gifts for the ministry of this church in outreach to the world, God. With concern for all of our brothers, sisters and siblings, we rededicate ourselves as helpers and advocates. Out of devotion to Jesus, we commit our best, that the church may bear witness to the world. Help us all, God, to be faithful stewards. Amen.

***Closing Song**

“O Splendor of God’s Glory Bright”

#144

***Going Forth with the Peace of Christ**

The Call to Worship (adapted) and Opening Payer are by Mary Patrina Boyd from *The Abingdon Worship Annual, 2022* 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 Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) is from *Gathered By Love-Worship Resources for Year C* by Lavon Bayler. The Affirmation of Faith is a version of our United Church of Christ Statement of Faith. The Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving is by Rev. Michelle L. Torigan.

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

Today, January 2: 10:00 am. – Worship with Communion
 No Sunday School
 Food Pantry
 Coffee

Tuesday, January 4: 9:30-11:30 am. Feed Mill

Sunday, January 9: 10:00 am. – Worship
 Sunday School
 Coffee

We deliver Meals on Wheels for the first 2 weeks in January.

We will be celebrating the sacrament of communion this morning. Everyone is welcome at the table. The inner ring is wine and outer ring is grape juice.

Today is Food Pantry Sunday. Donations of canned food, paper products and monetary donations are welcome. If you include your monetary donation with your offering be sure to mark the amount in the memo of your check.

We will be collecting good used or new towels, blankets, etc. for the Care team in January. If you would like to donate, please bring them to the church. We will be collecting through the end of January.

Radio sponsors for this new year are needed. There is a sign-up sheet in the parlor or let the church office know if you would like a particular month.

Please stay after worship to help undecorate from Advent and Christmas.

A reminder that the annual meeting will be held January 30th. Reports are due in the office by Sunday January 16th. Please e-mail your reports to uccalg@netamumail.com.

The Algona Community Blood Drive will be held Monday, January 10 from 12:30 pm-5:30 pm and Tuesday, January 11 from 9 am-2 pm at the First United Methodist Church Fellowship hall.

February and March newsletter articles are due in the office by January 25th



**First Congregational
 United Church of Christ**

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