

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
“Where No One Is a Stranger”  
First Sunday after Epiphany  
Baptism of Jesus Sunday  
January 9, 2022

## PRELUDE

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: Sing praises to God. Sing of God’s glory and strength.

Many: God calls us over the waters, and strengthens us for the journey.

One: Sing praises to Jesus. Sing of his healing and love.

Many: The waters of our baptism cleanse us, renewing our spirits and nursing our wounds.

One: Sing Praises to the Spirit. Sing of the Spirit’s comfort and hope.

Many: The flames of the Spirit are like a refiner’s fire, purifying the soul to the glory of God.

### \*OPENING SONG

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

#71

### \*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

Source of love and mercy; we enter a new year in the life of this church, may our love for you be made known in our love or one another. Help us leave old grievances and former argument behind, as we open our hearts to the possibilities that lie before us. Guide our footsteps into the glory of your ways, that we may live as you created us to be—beloved children, crowned with glory and honor. May our worship reflect the greatness of our calling, and the honor of our heritage. Amen.

## TIME FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG AT HEART

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(prayed together)

We know what it is like to be singed by the flames of our lives, Holy God. We look for ourselves in all the wrong places - success, power, adulation. We carve our names in the granite walls of work, hoping we will be remembered when we are gone. We have gone through the waters of baptism, but live as if they have not changed us.

We need to hear your sure word, 'do not fear,' Shaper of our lives. Our failures do not cause you to quit loving us, for you continue to claim us, gathering us up in your

compassionate arms. In our baptism, we discover not the end, but the first step of our journey with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

## SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

One: God's words of comfort and restoration are more powerful than any foolishness, any mistakes, any sins we commit. This is good news: we are God's people!

Many: Thanks be to God! By water and word, by the Spirit of God's redeeming grace, we are marked and sealed as God's beloved children. Amen.

### FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 8:14-17

### \*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

We believe in God the creator who created water for us in diverse forms; creeks and currents, springs and spas, ponds and puddles. Without this gift of water, we would perish.

We believe in Jesus, baptized by John in the waters of the Jordan, and sent by God to bring Living Water to all people. This Jesus spent time chatting with a Samaritan woman at Jacob’s well. His contact with her so refreshed her that she was able to start life anew and, in turn, give new life to her community. We believe that our contact with Jesus enables us to do likewise.

We believe in God’s Spirit which has the force of a thundering waterfall, ready to be used to renew the world, if only we would let it.

We believe that God calls us all to work joyfully to create communities where the river of water of life gives fullness of life to all people. Amen.

### \*GLORIA PATRI

#734

### FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

shared from *The Message*

### MESSAGE

“The Christ in All of Us”

Pastor Chris

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD’S PRAYER

## BRINGING OUR GIFTS

## OFFERTORY

### \*DOXOLOGY

Words #44

### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

(prayed together)

We offer our gifts in recognition that we are baptized people, God, transformed by the

power of the Holy Spirit. So, we will hold nothing back but will share our lives, our hearts, our energies, as well as our efforts, in ministry to the world around us. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

**\*CLOSING SONG**                      “Sweet, Sweet Spirit”                      #134 (Sing twice)

**GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**POSTLUDE**

The Call to Worship (adapted) and Opening Payer are by B.J. Beu from *The Abingdon Worship Annual, 2022* edited by Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu. The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, Words of Assurance and Offering Prayer of Dedication are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Affirmation of Faith is based on the Preamble added to the national constitution of the Uniting Church in Australia. (Source: Ross Mackinnon, July 2009)

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

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January Radio Sponsor:

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

Tuesday, January 11: 9:30 – 11:30 am.- Zoom Committee on Ministry Meeting

Thursday, January 13: 8:30 am. Ministerial All Agency Meeting

Sunday, January 16: 10:00 am. – Worship  
Sunday School  
Coffee

We deliver Meals on Wheels for this week.

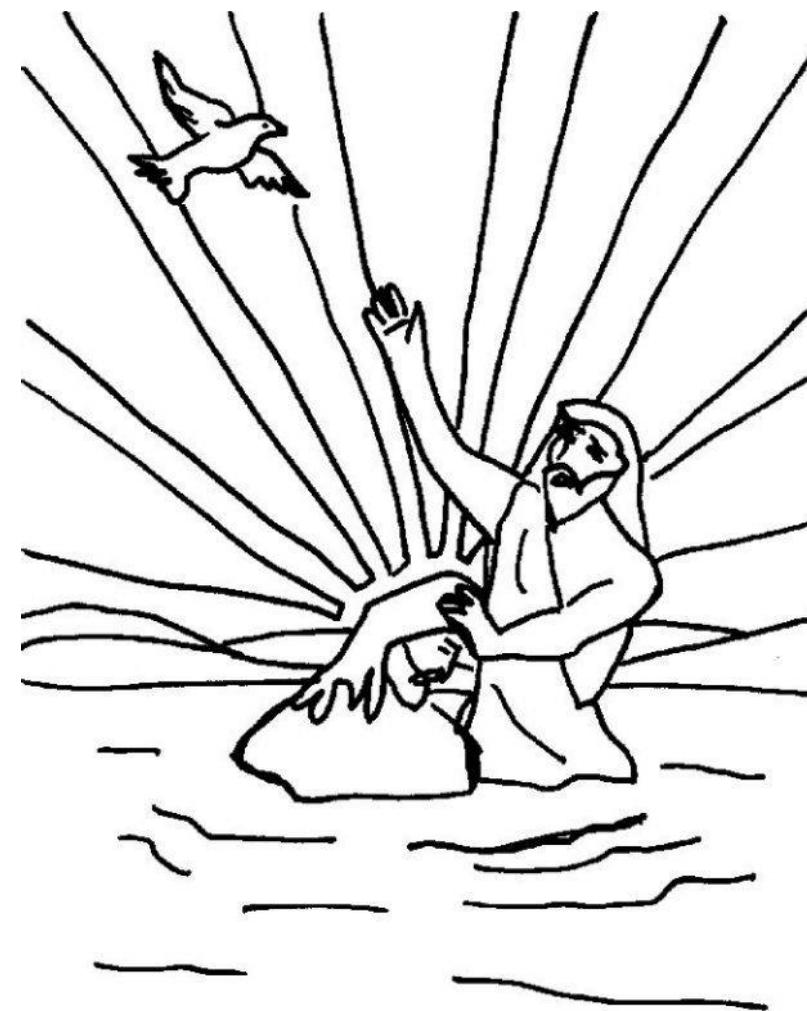
We will be collecting good used or new towels, blankets, etc. for the Care team through the end of January. If you would like to donate, please bring them to the church.

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.

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](mailto: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/March newsletter articles are due in the office by January 25<sup>th</sup>



**“You are my Son, the Beloved;  
with you I am well pleased.”**

Luke 3:22b