

First Congregational United Church of Christ
“Where No One Is a Stranger”
315 S. Moore Street – Algona, IA 50511
515-295-2845
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
January 30, 2022

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: Come, let's gather to offer God our worship and praise.

Many: We are here to offer Jesus our love and devotion.

One: Come, let's offer the Spirit our gratitude and thanksgiving.

Many: We are here to praise God from whom all blessings flow. Let's worship!

*OPENING SONG

“Come, Let Us Praise the Lord”

#9

*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

God of Love, we have been consecrated for discipleship and service. Encounter us in this time of worship that we may grow in knowledge and actions. Disturb our certainties so we will be open to new insights. Upset our priorities to make room for faith, hope, and love. Expand our horizons to encompass ideas we have not entertained before. Open our hearts to people we have failed to welcome into our midst and perfect among us that childlike trust that allows change to transform us in the presence of your love. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

TIME FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(prayed together)

Ah, Lord God, we do not know how to speak words of hope, because we listen to the purveyors of fear. We do not know how to be loving because our role models are ridicule and anger. We do not know how to be faithful to you, because at an early age, we learned to trust the promises of all the false prophets who entice us with their simple thoughts.

But you know how to forgive, God of kindness, so we pray you would pour out your mercy upon us. May faith abide in us, so we may serve others even as you have served

us; may hope abide in us, so we may surround the broken with your compassion and grace; may love abide in us, not only in these moments of brokenness, but in every moment of our life with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who abides in us. Amen.

SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

One: The good news is that, in our God, we find that safe place for our lives. In God's forgiveness, we are offered the healing we need.

Many: In God's acceptance, we discover the love in which we may abide in every moment of our lives. Thanks be to God! Amen.

SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 4:21-30

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI

#734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 1:4-10

shared from *The Message*

MESSAGE

“What's Our Excuse?”

Pastor Chris

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

Words #44

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

(prayed together)

Transform these gifts we return to you, God, that they may be gifts of abundant life, and ever-flowing love, for a world thirsting for your grace. In gratitude and joy we pray. Amen.

***CLOSING SONG**

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

#569

GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST

POSTLUDE

*Indicates all who are able please stand

The Call to Worship (adapted) and Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) are by B.J. Beu from *The Abingdon Worship Annual – 2022* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B.J. Beu. The Opening Prayer is from *Gathered by Love – Worship Resources for Year C* by Lavon Bayler. The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Affirmation of Faith is from the United Church of Canada.

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

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January Radio Sponsor: Scott and Sandy Harmes-Buchanan

Birthdays: February 1- Carol Kenyon

Today, January 30: 10:00 am. – Worship
 Sunday School
 Coffee
 Annual Meeting after worship

Tuesday, February 1: 9:30 – 11:30 am.- Pastor Chris at Feed Mill

Sunday, February 6: 10:00 am. – Worship with Communion
 Sunday School
 Coffee
 Food Pantry

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

Radio sponsors are needed for March, May and September. There is a sign-up sheet in the parlor or let the church office know if you would like one of these months.

Senior Center February calendar, meals on wheels menu are on the mission bulletin board.



(GNT)