

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
“Where No One Is a Stranger”  
315 S. Moore Street – Algona, IA 50511  
515-295-2845  
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany  
February 13, 2022

## PRELUDE

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: Blessed are those who trust - in God!

Many: We come in trust, to be grounded in God's love.

One: Blessed are those who hope - in God!

Many: We come in hope, trusting in the One who gives us life.

One: Blessed are those who delight - in God's Word!

Many: We come to hear God speak, hoping for healing and joy.

### \*OPENING SONG

“O Worship the King”

#2

### \*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

God of blessings and woes, bless us with your presence this day. Reveal your way forward, and guide us in pathways of hope and grace. In your blessed name, we pray. Amen.

## TIME FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG AT HEART

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(prayed together)

We confess what we are afraid to face, Blessing God, that the seductions of this world gnaw away at our hearts. We have more and more to choose from at the market, and so we forget those whose only choice is hunger. Our sense that we are your favorites causes us to make fun of those we are convinced are not. We are so consumed with saving enough for the future, we overlook those who have so little this day. Forgive us, Heartbroken God, for thinking we are the center of your world. Pour your living water into us, so we might send down roots deep into your heart, and so become those people who are blessings to others, as we have received the gift of new life from Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

## SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

One: Blessed are you: for God forgives you and restores you to new life. Rejoice in this day and dance for joy!

Many: Thanks be to God! Our faith is true, and our hope is grounded in the promises of the One we can trust not only on this day, but in every day to come. Amen.

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM for Karl and Leo Navarro

### SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 6:17-26

### \*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

I believe in God. The God of all creeds, with all their truths. But, above all, in the God that rises from the dead to become part of life. I believe in the God that accompanies me along every step of my path on this earth, many times walking behind me, watching me and suffering with my mistakes, other times walking beside me, talking to me and teaching me, and other times walking ahead of me, guiding and marking my pace.

I believe in the God of flesh and blood, Jesus Christ, the God who lived in my skin and tried on my shoes, the God who walked in my ways, and knows of lights and shadows. The God who ate and starved, who had a home and suffered loneliness, who was praised and condemned, kissed and spat on, loved and hated. The God who went to parties and funerals, the God who laughed and cried.

I believe in the God who is attentive today, who looks at the world and sees the hatred that segregates, divides, sets people aside, hurts and kills, who sees the bullets piercing the flesh, and the blood of innocent people flowing on the earth, who sees the hand that dips into another's pocket, stealing what somebody needs to eat, who sees the judge that favors the highest bidder, the truth and justice of hypocrites, who sees the dirty rivers and the dead fish, the toxic substances destroying the earth and piercing the sky who sees the future mortgaged and humankind's debt growing. I believe in God who sees all this ... and keeps on crying.

But I also believe in God who sees a mother giving birth – a life born from pain, who sees two children playing - a seed growing, who sees a flower blooming out of the debris - a new beginning, who sees three crazy women clamoring for justice – an illusion that doesn't die, who sees the sun rising every morning - a time of opportunities.

I believe in God who sees all this ...and laughs, because, in spite of it all, there is hope. Amen.

### \*GLORIA PATRI

#734

### FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 17:5-10

shared from the *Common English Bible*

### MESSAGE

“What Are The Consequences?”

Pastor Chris

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

**PRESENTING OUR GIFTS**

**OFFERTORY**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

Words #44

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

(prayed together)

Generous God, bless these gifts and our very lives, that they may be blessings of hope for your world. Amen.

**\*CLOSING SONG**

“We’re Marching to Zion”

#390

**GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**POSTLUDE**

\*Indicates all who are able please stand

The Call to Worship, Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance are from *Liturgical Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Opening Prayer and Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) are by Mary Scifres from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2022* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B.J. Beu. The Affirmation of Faith is by *Gerardo Oberman, Argentina. From Prayers for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2004*, posted on the [World Council of Churches](#) website.

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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: Feb. 13-Bridget Schlievert; 17- Pat Beaver, Chauncy Taylor; 2-18 – Karen Dearchs

Today, February 13: 10:00 am. – Worship  
 Sunday School  
 Coffee

Monday, February 14: Happy Valentine’s Day

Tuesday, February 15: 9:30 – 11:30 am.- Pastor Chris at Feed Mill

Wednesday, February 16: 7pm. - Board Meeting

Thursday, February 17: 10am. - Clergy Cluster at Humboldt UCC

Friday, February 18: 9am. - Algona Care Center Services

Saturday, February 19: 8am. - Pilgrim Heights Board Zoom Meeting

Sunday, February 20: 10:00 am. – Worship  
 Sunday School  
 Coffee

Radio sponsors are needed for March and September.

We rejoice with the family of Karl and Leo Navarro as they are baptized this morning.

