

First Congregational United Church of Christ
“Where No One Is a Stranger”
315 S. Moore Street – Algona, IA 50511
515-295-2845
Seventh Sunday after Epiphany
February 20, 2022

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: Come and learn the ways of life.

Many: We have come to follow Jesus.

One: Love your enemies and do good to those who hate you.

Many: We have come to follow Jesus.

One: Bless those who curse you, and pray for those who persecute you.

Many: We have come to follow Jesus.

One: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

Many: We have come to follow Jesus.

One: Come and learn the ways of life. Let's worship!

*OPENING SONG

“You Servants of God”

#112

*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

Holy One, you are deep within our world, calling us to join you in creating abundant life for all. Open our hearts to recognize you. Free us to trust your call and follow; enable us to repent, and forgive, and join in your work to make “all things new”. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

TIME FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(prayed together)

In this season of light, Revealing God, we find ourselves wandering the shadows of the world. In this time when we focus on Jesus' ministry of healing, we hold tight to all those emotions – hatred, fear, worry – which continue to damage us. In these days when we are invited to listen to Jesus' teachings, we confess it is easier to hear the seductive words of sin.

Forgive us, Resurrecting God, for trusting in promises which are short-lived, rather than in your Word which endures forever. You have sent Jesus before us so that, as we follow him, we might travel from that far country of fear and doubt to that better country of resurrection life. Amen.

SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

One: Take delight in the good news, dear friends. Salvation is from our God, who restores us to new life.

Many: God chooses to be gracious; God longs to give us our heart's desires; God provides healing and hope to all. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalms 37:1-11, 39-40

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

We believe in God, who is love, whose love is manifest in all Creation, in our lives, and in all people.

We follow Christ, who embodied God's love. In his life and ministry, his death and resurrection, and his granting to us of his Spirit, he filled us with that love as well.

We live by the Spirit, the presence of God's love in us. In that love we participate in the Church, Body of Christ, in loving God by loving our neighbors through our prayers, our presence, our gifts and our Service.

Love is our faith, and it is a gift from God. We thank God, and ask God's blessings, that we may love in the name of Christ and the power of the Spirit, to God's glory. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI

#734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Luke 6:27-38

shared from the *Common English Bible*

MESSAGE

“Act Like A Child...Of God”

Pastor Chris

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

Words #44

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

(prayed together)

Your goodness is limitless and eternal, God. We bring you our gifts as echoes of your generosity, that they may be used for good. May our giving be a blessing for others and for our course in faith. Amen.

***CLOSING SONG**

“For the Healing of the Nations”

#621

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 Joanne Reynolds from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2022* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B.J. Beu. The Opening Prayer is from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, and Words of Assurance, are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Affirmation of Faith is by Steve Garnaas-Holmes.

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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. 20-Kris Schlievert

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

Tuesday, February 22: 9:30 – 11:30 am.- Pastor Chris at Feed Mill

Wednesday. February 23: 7pm. – WISE Church Policy Team Meeting

Sunday, February 27: 10:00 am. – Worship
Sunday School
Coffee

A radio sponsor is needed for September.

“Our Daily Bread” devotion for March, April and May is here. It may be picked up in the Fellowship entry.

Love your
Enemies



Live



Generously

Luke 6:27-28