

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
“Where No One Is A Stranger”  
First Sunday after Christmas Day  
January 1, 2023

## PRELUDE

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: Let all of creation praise the name of the Holy One!

**Many: The rhythms of life praise the Everlasting God through the markings of time.**

One: Let all of creation praise the name of the Holy One!

**Many: The flowers, land, and trees praise the Divine Gardener through rest and renewal.**

One: Let all of creation praise the name of the Holy One!

**All: Living creatures praise the Spirit of God through our breathing, living and being.**

**Praise God!**

### \*Opening Song:

“Good Christian Friends Rejoice”

#198

### \*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

Holy Love, You make us a community. You gather us as your offspring and knit us together with grace and mercy. In your presence, there is fullness of love, joy, hope, and peace. Thank you for being among us this day and with us in every moment of our being. Receive our praise, dwell in our midst, and create in us a heart that yearns for you and your kin-dom. In the name of Emmanuel, we pray. Amen.

## TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(prayed together)

We could proclaim your name, God of this holy season, but we spend too much time talking about celebrities. We could tell others about all your gracious deeds, but are comparing notes about the exploits of our favorite athletes. We could let your Word guide our lives, but instead we do what the politicians think is best.

Why? Because we forget who we are called to be. But you remember, Faithful

God. You remember that we put our trust in others, not you; you remember how we chase after idols, not follow you; you remember to save us in our distress, which is why you sent Jesus to us, our Lord, our Savior. Amen.

## A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

One: In the silence, in the dreams, in the wonder, in the words, God comes to save us and have mercy on us.

**Many: It is fitting that we offer our thanks and praise to the One who forgives us.**

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

### SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 2:13-23

**\*AN AFFIRMATION OF Purpose** inside front cover of the hymnal (read together)

### \*GLORIA PATRI

#734

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world with-out end. A-men, A-men.**

### FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Psalms 148

shared from the *Common English Bible*

### MESSAGE:

“There’s Still Time For Praise”

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

Gracious God, we thank you that in this sacrament you assure us of your goodness and love. Accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving and help us to grow in love and obedience, that we may serve you in the world. We offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Lord. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work for your praise and glory. Amen.

### PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

### OFFERTORY

### \*DOXOLOGY

#34

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, you heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Accept, Gracious God, not only these gifts of money and time, but also the gifts of our very selves. May they shine for all to see and be brought into the sphere of your love and righteousness. Amen.

**\*Closing Song** "Go Tell It on the Mountain" #218

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

**\*Indicates all who are able please stand**

The Call to Worship and Opening Prayer are from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Call to Confession, and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) is by Joanne Brown from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2022* edited by Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu. The Affirmation of Faith is our 1st Congregational UCC Statement of Purpose. The Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving (adapted) is from *A Prayer Book for Australia*.

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Worship Leader:	Pastor Chris Burtnett
Lector:	David Burrow
Organist:	Vicki Merchlewitz
January Radio Sponsor:	

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Today, January 1: 10 am.- Worship -Sacrament of Communion  
Coffee  
Food Pantry

Tuesday, January 3: 9:30-11am. - Pastor Chris at Feed Mill

Sunday, January 8: 10 am. - Worship  
Sunday School  
Coffee  
Undecorate from Advent and Christmas

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.

We will be collecting good used or new towels, blankets, etc. for the Care team for the month 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.

A reminder that the annual meeting will be held January 29th. Reports are due in the office by Sunday January 8th. Please e-mail your reports to [uccalg@netamumail.com](mailto:uccalg@netamumail.com).

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



*First Congregational  
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