

First Congregational United Church of Christ
"Where No One Is a Stranger"
First Sunday after Epiphany
January 8, 2023

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: The voice of God calls over the waters:

Many: "Beloved, receive the Holy Spirit."

One: The Son of God beckons:

Many: "Beloved, be born of water and the Spirit."

One: The Spirit of God proclaims:

Many: "Beloved, be born anew this day."

One: The voice of God calls us through our baptism. Come! Let's worship!

*OPENING SONG

"Fairest Lord Jesus"

#123

*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

Voice, Body, and Spirit, You make your presence among us. We receive your love and affirmation. We cherish your guidance and direction. We follow your path and example. Remind us of our connection to you and your covenantal relationship with us. Wash us in the baptized life for renewal and revitalization. Amen.

TIME FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(prayed together)

We try to stop Jesus from coming into our lives, Patient God, for we know how disruptive he can be. He wants us to preach the gospel with our lives, but we prefer to complain how hard that is to do. He wants us to do what is right, yet wrong-doing comes so easily for us. He would like us not to give up until justice is done, but we just don't seem to have the time.

We confess because we know we need to be forgiven by you, Glory and Grace. Bathe us in the life-giving waters of your mercy so we can come up from the water, ready to do good for others, to give you all the praise, to learn justice, grace, and hope from your Servant, Jesus Christ. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

One: You are God's Beloved. You delight God's heart. Believe this good news, my friends!

Many: The Spirit of God rests upon us, anointing us with mercy and peace. Thanks be to God! Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 2:1-12

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

Because God is the source of all life, and love and being, we call God Creator. Because we know the history of God's presence among God's covenanted people and honor their tradition, we call God Lord. Because our Savior, Jesus Christ, God's obedient child, knew God intimately and spoke of God so, we call God Father. Because God is present in each act of birth; and because God shelters, nurtures and cares for us, we call God Mother. Because God holds us up and gives us strength and courage when we are weak and in need, we call God Sustainer. Because we have known God in our pain and suffering, we call God Comforter. Because beyond pain lies God's promise of all things made new, we call God Hope. Because God is the means of liberation and the way to freedom, we call God Deliverer. Because God has chosen to come among us and share our common lot, making the hard choices, suffering and dying; because Jesus rose victorious, bringing new life, we call God Redeemer.

Confident that God will hear, we call upon God with all the names that makes God real to us, the names which create an image in our minds and hearts, an image which our souls can understand and touch, and yet we know that God is more than all of these. Blessing and power, glory and honor be unto God. Amen.

*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

Isaiah 42:1-9

shared from the *Common English Bible*

MESSAGE

"INTRODUCTIONS"

Pastor Chris

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

Words #44

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** (prayed together)

Giver of Gifts, we thank you for providing in abundance and allowing us to participate as co-givers with you. We dedicate our offerings in your many names. Amen.

***CLOSING SONG** "Breath on Me, Breath of God" #461

GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship is by B.J. Beu from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2022* edited by Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu. The Opening Prayer and Offering Prayer of Dedication are 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 adapted from a Reading from the Second National Meeting of United Church of Christ Women.

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

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Today, January 8: 10:00 am. – Worship
Sunday School
Coffee
Undecorate from Advent and Christmas

Tuesday, January 10: 9:00 am.- Zoom Committee on Ministry Meeting

Wednesday, January 11: 7pm – Board Meeting

Thursday, January 12: 8:30 am. Ministerial Meeting in Fellowship Hall

Friday & Saturday, January 13- 14: Pilgrim Heights Board Meeting

Sunday, January 15: 10:00 am. – Worship
Sunday School
Coffee

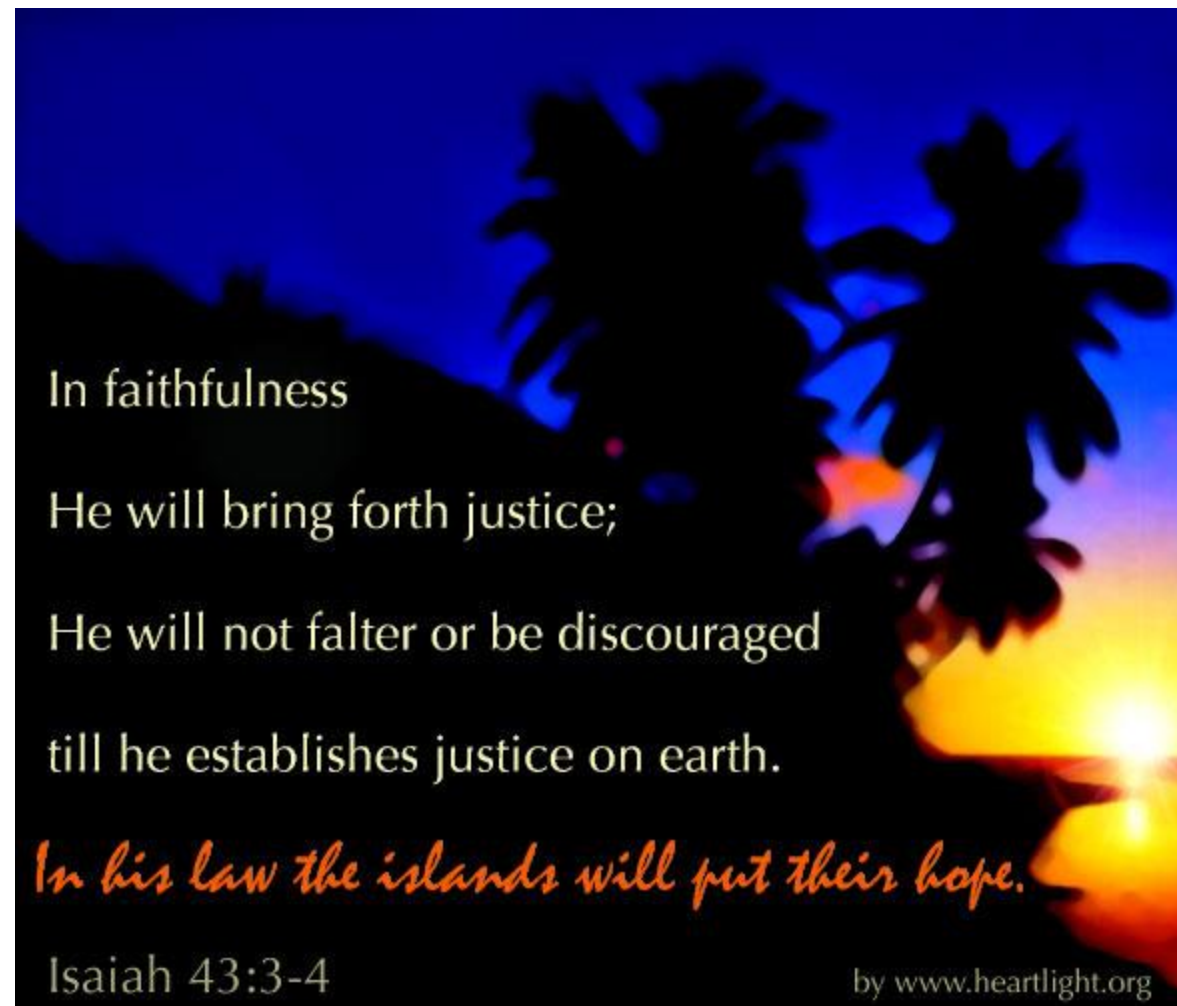
We will be collecting good used or new towels, blankets, etc. for the Care team for the month of January. If you would like to donate, please bring them to the church.

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.

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.

February/March newsletter articles are due in the office by January 25th



*First Congregational
United Church of Christ*

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