

First Congregational United Church of Christ
"Where No One Is a Stranger"
Second Sunday after Epiphany
January 15, 2023

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: Called to be light,

Many: we come this day to shine.

One: Called to follow Jesus,

Many: we come this day to serve.

One: Called to love God,

All: *We come to worship and praise.*

*OPENING SONG

"Holy God, We Praise Your Name"

#138

*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

Light of the world, shine through our worship, that we might see you more clearly and know you more intimately. Reveal your presence and make your voice heard, that we may grow in love, and shine with the light of your love for all to see. Amen.

TIME FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(prayed together)

You are faithful, Patient God, even as we continue to live in the shadows of life. We could delight in your hopes for us, but choose to do things our way. We could serve the most vulnerable around us, but long to pal around with the powerful. We could share the glad news of deliverance, but prefer to swap stories and gossip.

There is none like you, Redeemer of all your children. You lean over to listen to our prayers, and whisper forgiveness to our souls. You lift us out of the holes we dig for ourselves, and set us on hope's solid ground. You strengthen our weak faith with the life, grace, and love of Jesus Christ, our Lord, our Savior. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

One: Come, dear friends and receive God's grace; see all that God is doing for you; follow Jesus, as he leads you closer to God.

Many: We will sing of God's love for us; We will sing a new song of hope and wonder. Thanks be to God we are forgiven. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

We have confidence in Jesus who healed the sick, the blind, and the paralyzed, and even raised the dead. He cast out evil powers and confronted corrupt leaders. He cleansed the temple. He favored the poor. He turned water into wine, walked on water, calmed storms. He died, rose from the dead, and ascended to God, and sent the Holy Spirit. We have confidence in Jesus who taught in word and example, sign and wonder. He preached parables of the kingdom of God on hillsides, from boats, in the temple, in homes, at banquets and parties, along the road, on beaches, in towns, by day and by night. He taught the way of love for God and neighbor, for stranger and enemy, for outcast and alien. We have confidence in Jesus, who called disciples, led them, gave them new names, new purpose, and sent them out to preach good news. He washed their feet as a servant. He walked with them, ate with them, called them friends, rebuked them, encouraged them, promised to leave, then return, and promised to be with them always. He taught them to pray, rose early to pray, stole away to desolate places, fasted and faced agonizing temptations, wept in a garden, and prayed, 'Not my will but your will be done.' He rejoiced, he sang, he feasted, he wept. We have confidence in Jesus, so we follow him, learn his ways, seek to obey his teaching and live by his example. We walk with him, walk in him, abide in him, as a branch in a vine. We have not seen him, but we love him. His words are to us words of life eternal, and to know him is to know the true and living God. We do not see him now, but we have confidence in Jesus. 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

John 1:29-42

read from the *Good News Bible*

MESSAGE

"Rocks"

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)

Generous, Loving God, bless these gifts with your mercy and grace. Shine through them with your light and love, that our ministries and our church may be a beacon of light and love, revealing your presence to the world. Amen.

***CLOSING SONG**

“I Love to Tell the Story”

#560

**GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST
POSTLUDE**

The Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, and Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) are by Mary Scifres from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2023* edited by Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu. The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance (adapted) are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Affirmation of Faith, The Jesus Creed was first used at the Emergent Convention, Nashville, May 2004. © Brian McLaren

=====

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

=====

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

Tuesday, January 17: 9:30-11am.- Pastor at Feed Mill

Wednesday, January 18: 8:30am – Multi-Disciplinary Team Meeting in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, January 22: 10:00 am. – Worship
Sunday School
Coffee Sunday

Sunday, January 29: 10:00 am. – Worship
Sunday School
Coffee
Annual Meeting

January 26, Chuck West will be 97. If you would like to send him a card, his address is: 412 W Kennedy, Algona, IA 50511. He would so enjoy hearing from you.

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.

The monthly radio sponsor sign-up sheet for 2023 is posted on the bulletin board in the parlor. The months that are open are: April, May, July, September, October and November.

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

Your 2022 Giving statements are in your mailboxes.



**The Rock
Meets Jesus
- John 1:42 NLT -**

**First Congregational
United Church of Christ**
315 Moore Street – Algona, IA 50511
515-295-2845