

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
"Where No One Is A Stranger"  
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany  
February 5, 2023

## PRELUDE

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: Called to be light,

**Many: we would carry God's hope into the shadows of the world.**

One: Called to be salt,

**Many: we would enhance the lives of those around us, with joy.**

One: Called to live in God's reality,

**Many: We will never be moved.**

One: Let this be our worship.

### \*Opening Song:

"Gather Us In"

#649

### \*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

**Sovereign God, we gather as a community to worship you in spirit and in truth. May we resist empty actions. Let our rituals and routines hold meaning and connect us to you.**

**May we seek an encounter with you to receive your revelation and be transformed, healed, and renewed. Let it be so. Amen.**

## TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(prayed together)

It is true we break your commandments, God of our lives. Much worse, we break your heart when we point the finger at those who are different from us; when we gossip about our friends and neighbors; when we think everything is all about us.

Forgive us, Loving God, we pray. We long to know your ways, so open our ears to hear those words we always ignore. We search for you each day, so open our eyes to your wonders so we may see them anew. We would believe in your promises, so fill our hearts with the presence of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

## A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

One: God will show us the way to God's realm. Gracious, merciful, and righteous is our God of salvation!

**Many: God rebuilds our lives, repairs our mistakes, fills our emptiness with hope and joy. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.**

## SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 112: 1-10

**\*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** inside the back 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

Matthew 5:13-20

read from *The Message*

## MESSAGE:

"Why Are We Here?"

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

We thank you, God, for inviting us to your table where we have been refreshed by this bread and cup, where we have experienced Jesus' presence and received all of his gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us out into your world with courage and in peace to be the church, your servant people, disciples of our Sovereign Savior, Jesus Christ. 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**

**Bless this offering and the ministries it supports, Guiding God, that your light may chase away the shadows in places lost to hopelessness and despair. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

**\*Closing Song** "We All Are One in Mission" #552

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

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

The Call to Worship (adapted) is from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2023* edited by Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu and *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) is by B.J. Beu from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2023* edited by Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu. The Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving is adapted from the *Book of Worship-United Church of Christ*.

=====

Worship Leader: Pastor Chris Burtnett  
Lector: David Burrow  
Organist: Vicki Merchlewitz  
February Radio Sponsor: David Burrow in memory of George & Betty Burrow

=====

Today, February 5: 10 am.- Worship -Sacrament of Communion  
Coffee  
Food Pantry

Tuesday, February 7: 9:30-11am.- Pastor at Feed Mill

Wednesday, February, 8: 7pm Board Meeting

Thursday, February 9: 8:30am: Ministerial Meeting in Fellowship Hall

February 12: 10:00 am. – Worship with Our Church Mission Fund Offering  
Sunday School  
Coffee  
Mission and Memorial Team Meeting

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.

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.

Algona Community Blood Drive will be Monday, February 6 from 12:30pm-5:30pm and Tuesday, February 7 from 9am-2pm. at First United Methodist Church.

There are copies of the Annual Meeting and the Church Directory in the back of the church. Please let the church office know for additions or corrections for the church directory.



*First Congregational  
United Church of Christ*

315 Moore Street – Algona, IA 50511  
515-295-2845