

First Congregational United Church of Christ
“Where No One Is a Stranger”
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
February 12, 2023

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

One: You could have stayed in bed, you could be eating breakfast out.

Many: We have chosen to be in this place, feasting on God's words.

One: You could give a cold shoulder to your neighbors, you could warm yourself in front of the fire.

Many: We have chosen to see God with more than just a sliver of our hearts.

One: You could be chasing after the world's idols, you could be listening to television's talking heads.

Many: We have chosen to serve the One who blesses us with life.

One: Let's worship God!

*OPENING SONG “Your Servant Comes This Hour” #566

*OPENING PRAYER (prayed together)

Righteous God. in you we find life and liberty, compassion and care, redemption and reconciliation. You make your ways known to us, and you recognize your people as we are—fully human and made in your image. You come to us, and we come to you. Let us meet in this time and place. Let us bring our hope and our fears, our joys and our sorrows, our successes and our disappointments—the fullness of this glorious and maddening life toward you assured that you meet us here. Amen.

TIME FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (prayed together)

Invited to walk in your footsteps, Wanderer of the Universe, we turn away to play hopscotch on the sidewalks of seduction. Given the chance to watch you work wonders of grace and renewal, we fixate on the idols of success and power. When you want to tell us stories of healing and reconciliation, we decline to hear your gentle voice. Have mercy on us, God of Blessings, and help us to choose to hold fast to your hand; to

walk your streets of wholeness and hope; to follow our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, into the life you intend for us. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

One: God's forgiveness dwells in our hearts; Christ's love fills us; the Spirit's peace guides our steps.

Many: Our feet are set on the journey. Walking in faith and hope with our God, we will be servants to the world. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Deuteronomy 30:15-20

AN AFFIRMATION of FAITH

We trust in God, Spirit of life, Creator of all that is and all that is to come; who surrounds us and fills us; who speaks the Word of life in us; and so we listen. We listen to Jesus, Revealer of God, our brother and teacher; who lived in prayer and in love. Listening to God's voice and doing God's will, he gave his life in love; but God raised him to life that is eternal; and so we follow him. We follow in the power of the Holy Spirit, God alive in us, for the sake of the healing of the world. We trust in the power of forgiveness, the reality of resurrection, the gift of the universal Church as the body of Christ, and the mystery of eternal life. 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 Matthew 5:21-37 read from *The Message*

MESSAGE “Jesus Is Full of It” 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)

These offerings belong to you, God, for you are the source of every blessing and joy. Employ these gifts to build your realm. By our prayers, our presence, our gifts, and our service, make your church a true instrument of peace. Amen.

***CLOSING SONG** “O Word of God Incarnate” #670

GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship (adapted), Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Opening Prayer is from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) is by James Dollins from *The Abingdon Worship Annual, 2023* edited by Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu. The Affirmation of Faith is by Steve Garnaas-Holmes

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Worship Leader: Pastor Chris Burtnett

Lector: David Burrow

Organist: Vicki Merchlewitz

February Radio Sponsor: David Burrow in memory of George & Betty Burrow

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Birthdays: February: 13-Bridget Schlievert; 17- Pat Beaver, Chauncey Taylor; 18-Kaaren Dearchs

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

Tuesday, February 14: 9:30-11am.- Pastor at Feed Mill

Friday 17: 9:15am: Care Center Worship

Saturday, February 18: 10am.- Christian Unity worship and Bruch at Methodist Church

Sunday, February 12: 10:00 am. – Worship
Sunday School
Coffee

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.

Tuesday, February 21 Algona 1st Presbyterian Church will host a “Fat Tuesday” Dad’s Belgian Waffles from 4:30pm to 7pm. Tickets are \$9 -presale \$10 at the door, children 6-12 \$8, 5 and under and 90 and over free. Contact church office if you need tickets – 515-295-2226.



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