

First Congregational United Church of Christ
“Where No One Is a Stranger”
Last Sunday After the Epiphany
Transfiguration Sunday
February 19, 2023

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: With loving hearts and open minds,

Many: we have come to listen, for God is still speaking.

One: With loving hearts and open minds,

Many: we have come to look, for God is still present.

One: With loving hearts and open minds,

Many: we have come to worship, for God is in our midst.

*OPENING SONG

“The God of Abraham Praise”

#16

*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

God of glory, grace us with your presence. Overwhelm us with your love. Guide us with your wisdom and fill us with your Holy Spirit, as we worship and praise you this day. Amen.

TIME FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(prayed together)

Our judgment often becomes clouded by our foolishness, Sheltering God, and so we make all the wrong choices. We let fancy philosophies draw us away from your grace. The flowery words of politicians can lead us into valleys of worry and despair. Our fears can convince us that those around us are conspiring against us. You can take all our foolishness, Creative God, and make us wise enough to see you among us. You take the shards of our broken lives to recast us into a faithful people. You speak gently to us, so we can listen to your dreams of our seeing each person as your beloved, even as Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, sees us through such eyes. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

One: On mountaintops and in valleys, in moments when our lives are shrouded and as well as when we reflect Christ’s light, God is with us, declaring we are the beloved!

Many: In this moment, in every moment, may we glimpse the grace of God which comes and transfigures our lives. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 24:12-18

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

Our hope is God, our holy Parent, who makes all things and from whom all blessings flow. God’s faithfulness is the anchor of our hope.

Our trust is in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. More than a teacher, His life, death, and resurrection giving meaning to our existence. Christ’s faithfulness tethers us to holy mystery.

Our trust is in the Holy Spirit. Blowing over and through creation, unexpected and untamed, The Spirit stirs forgiveness, fruitfulness, and creates families. The Spirit’s faithfulness ties together past, present, and future.

Holy Trinity, One God, we believe you transfigure our faith. 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 17:1-9

read from the *Common English Bible*

MESSAGE

“As Plain as the Nose on Your Face”

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)

Embolden us, God, to give as fully as we have received. Multiply the gifts we return to you now, that they may empower the lives of many with your glory and your grace. Amen.

*CLOSING SONG

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

#48

GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship (adapted), Opening Prayer, and Offering Prayer of Dedication 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 are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Affirmation of Faith is by *Rev. Julia Seymour, Lutheran Church of Hope, Anchorage, AK* from liturgylink.net

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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 20- Kris Schlievert

Today, February 19: 10 am.- Worship
Sunday School
Coffee
Mission and Memorial Team Meeting

Tuesday, February 21: 9:30-11am.- Pastor at Feed Mill

Wednesday 22: 7pm.- Ash Wednesday Service in the Sanctuary

Thursday, February 23: 10 am.- Pastor at Clergy Cluster in Humboldt

Sunday, February 26: 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.

The March, April, May issue of “Our Daily Bread” is here and may be picked up in the Fellowship entry.

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.

Meals on Wheels: The first two weeks in March our church is scheduled for all 3 routes. A sign-up sheet is posted in the parlor.



*First Congregational
United Church of Christ*

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