

First Congregational United Church of Christ
“Where No One Is A Stranger”
Baptism of Jesus Sunday
January 12, 2024

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

* Call to Worship

(read responsively)

L: Come, beloved of God, to remember who you are and whose you are.

P: God in Christ, has named us all “Beloved.”

L: Yes, here and now, God’s heaven of love is being poured out anew.

P: May this motion of the Holy One, shape our hearts and minds.

L: May it brighten the Epiphany light in us and the whole creation.

P: And may it shape our words and work into good news for the world!

*Opening Song:

“Praise To the Lord, the Almighty”

#71

*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

Holy One, awaken us again to Your outpouring Spirit of Love. Through this generous gift, stretch our souls wide and form us into channels of your healing grace. Gift us with an ability to recognize You in each other, all imprinted with Your beloved blessing. Clarify our intentions, purify our actions, fill our words with grace and our hearts with hope. Yes, soak our thinking, our praying, our hoping, our everything in You. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We know what it is like to be singed by the flames of our lives, Holy God. We look for ourselves in all the wrong places - success, power, adulation. We carve our names in the granite walls of work, hoping we will be remembered when we are gone. We have gone through the waters of baptism, but live as if they have not changed us.

We need to hear your sure word, 'do not fear,' Shaper of our lives. Our failures do not cause you to quit loving us, for you continue to claim us, gathering us up in your

compassionate arms. In our baptism, we discover not the end, but the first step of our journey with Jesus, our Savior.

A TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Before we thought to turn to God, God already turned toward us in love. The saturating grace of God is trustworthy and true.

Many: Our prayers of transformation have been met with God’s outpouring of forgiving love. In the name of Jesus, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 29

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

(read together)

We are God’s. We belong to The One who creates all things, in whose image all people are made.

We are Christ’s. He has loved us, healed us, called us and anointed us with his Spirit.

We belong to his death and resurrection and ministry.

Baptized by water and the Spirit. We belong to the church, the Body of Christ.

God gives us the gifts of forgiveness, resurrection, and eternal life, and the gift of participating in the healing of the world by God’s grace.

As God’s beloved, we devote ourselves to God and to God’s will, wholly, joyfully and with the help of Jesus. Amen.

* GLORIA PATRI:

“Glory Be to the Father”

#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:

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

read from *The Message*

MESSAGE:

“Baptized With Fire”

Pastor Chris

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD’S PRAYER

(with debts/debtors)

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

* DOXOLOGY:

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

#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**

Loving God, you have blessed us with your love. We bring these gifts of love to you, our source of life. Us them, we pray, that others may experience your grace and live free from fear. Amen.

*** CLOSING SONG:** "Sing a New Church" #577

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

POSTLUDE

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

The Call to Worship, Opening Prayer and Word of Assurance (adapted) are by Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins, Conference Minister of the Heartland Conference of the United Church of Christ from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) is by Mary Petrina Boyd from *The Abingdon Worship Annual-2025* edited by Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu. The Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession (adapted) are from *Liturgical Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Affirmation of Faith (adapted) is by Steve Garnaas-Holmes.

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Organist:	Antonia Rupert
Worship Leader:	David Burrow
Pastor:	Rev. Chris Burtnett
January Radio Sponsor:	Pastor Chris and Pam Burtnett

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Sunday, January 12: 10:30am – Worship
Sunday School
Coffee
Annual Reports are due

Tuesday, January 14: 9am. – COM Zoom Meeting
10:00am.-Pastor at Feed Mill

Wednesday, January 15: 8:30am.- Multi-Disciplinary Team Meeting in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, January 19: 10:30am – Worship
Sunday School
Coffee

Sunday, January 26: Annual Meeting after Worship and potluck

If anyone would like to be on a committee, change committees or office, please let Helen Scuffham know.

In January we will be collecting new or gently used towels and blankets. They may be placed on the first few rows of pews in the sanctuary.



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