

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
“Where No One Is A Stranger”  
Second Sunday After the Epiphany  
January 19, 2024

## PRELUDE

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

### \* Call to Worship (read responsively)

One: We come in these endless days, people in need of the constancy of God’s love:

**Many: We come to drink deeply from God’s fountain of life; to continue to be guided by God’s Light.**

One: We gather in these weary days, people looking for signs of hope and wonder:

**Many: We gather to drink deeply from God’s fountain of grace; that our weariness might be wrapped in God’s Hope.**

One: We come to worship in these overwhelming days, people who try to point others to Jesus.

**Many: We come to drink deeply from our God’s fountain of joy; that our lives might be strengthened by Jesus’ Life.**

\*Opening Song: “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” #48

### \*OPENING PRAYER (prayed together)

Magnificent God, we come to draw near to you. Your presence among us sustains and challenges us. In you, we find strength and surprises. May the songs we sing, the prayers we pray, the word proclaimed, and the lives touched honor your name. We give you glory and honor. We welcome you and pray that your spirit shapes us with fresh wind, power, and compassion. Amen.

## TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

## CALL TO CONFESSION

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Delight of the Ages, we cannot remain silent, but must speak of the ways we misuse your gifts. In our desire to have more and more, we cause more damage to your good creation. In our obsession with ourselves, we have desolated the lives of those around

us. When we hoard what you have given us, we cannot be a blessing to other people. Forgive us, Restless God, so we might be restored to life. May your steadfast love save and strengthen us to share our gifts with others, even as you have shared the Gift of Jesus, our Savior. Amen.

## A TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: God delights in us. So much, that God will not rest until we are at peace. God will not remain silent, but will call us by name: 'My Delight.'

**Many: God's steadfast love extends to the heavens, and reaches down to touch our hearts. Thanks be to God who forgives and saves us! Amen.**

SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

### \*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: (read together)

**We are the people of God! We are a sign of the New World! We are sisters, brothers, and siblings of Jesus!**

**We believe in God! We believe in the goodness of God, the presence of God in human history, and the nearness of God’s love.**

**We believe in Jesus! We believe that God was and is revealed in human life, that out of human suffering may come rescue and healing, that out of death comes new life.**

**We believe in the Eternal Spirit, who moves among God’s people and invites the world into God’s reign. We believe that the world can change, that peace and wholeness can come, and that the New World can arrive.**

**We are the people of God! We are a sign of the New World! We are brothers, sisters, and siblings of Jesus!**

\* 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: John 2:1-11 read from *The Message*

MESSAGE: “Just A Little Push” 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**  
Holy One, may our gifts declare your glory and benefit the common good. Receive them with our gratitude for your generosity and the opportunity to participate in your kingdom on earth. Amen.

**\* CLOSING SONG:** “Jesus, Come, for We Invite You” #669

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

**POSTLUDE**

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

The Call to Worship (adapted), the Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Opening Prayer and Offering Prayer of Dedication are by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ. The Affirmation of Faith (adapted) is by David Beebe, from *Flames of the Spirit-Resources for Worship Like Bread for the Journey*, edited by Ruth C. Duck.

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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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Birthdays: January 23: Grant Person

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

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

Thursday, January 23: 10am.- Clergy Cluster in Humboldt

Sunday, January 26: 10:30am – Worship  
Sunday School  
Coffee  
Annual Meeting after Worship and Potluck  
Set up for International Delight Thai Fusion Dinner

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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