

First Congregational United Church of Christ
“Where No One Is A Stranger”
Third Sunday After the Epiphany
January 26, 2024

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

* Call to Worship

(read responsively)

One: The Spirit of God has called us to this place and time.

Many: We gather to hear God’s liberating word of love.

One: Today, past and future meet in the holiness of now.

Many: May the Spirit of God at work in Jesus, also work in us.

One: May the vision of flourishing for all be imprinted on our hearts.

Many: And may it be enacted in our lives!

*Opening Song:

“Stand Up and Bless the Lord”

#11

*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

Gracious God, anoint us anew with your Holy Spirit of Love. By it, form our hearts, minds, and lives into channels of your good news. Grant us a renewed passion for your vision of a world where none are poor and where every weight is lifted. Cultivate your courageous compassion in us to move toward any who have been marginalized or run over by the world. Yes, bless and strengthen us to bless and strengthen others. We pray this in the name of the one whose life fulfilled Your Holy vision, Jesus Savior. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Do we make you laugh or weep, Gracious God? We sing that we are one in your Spirit, but cannot tolerate those who disagree with us. We talk of being one Body, but fight over music or Bible versions or carpet colors. We affirm the giftedness of each person, but we heap honor on just a special few.

Forgive us, Creative God, that we dismember your Body so easily. May the words of our

mouths speak peace to the brokenness in our world; may the hopes of our hearts bring wonder to those in despair; and may our love embrace all who are around us, even as we have been welcomed by your grace in Jesus our Savior.

A TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Forgiven, we are filled by God's Spirit, commissioned to be Christ's hope, Christ's people for the world.

Many: Anointed, we can care for one another, weep with one another, serve one another, and live with one another. Thanks be to God. Amen. Amen.

SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 4:14-21

***STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:** inside front cover of the hymnal (read together)

* 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: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 read from the *Common English Bible*

MESSAGE:

“All Day Long”

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

Thank you, God, for loving us into the freedom of a generous life. Bless these gifts we bring in response to the blessing you have already given us with the gift of life. Form our lives anew into living offerings, sharing Your love with a grace that frees others. Amen.

*** CLOSING SONG:**

“O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

#96

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

POSTLUDE

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

The Call to Worship, Opening Prayer (adapted), and Offering Prayer of Dedication are by the Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins, Conference Minister of the Heartland Conference of the United Church of Christ. The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession (adapted), and Words of Assurance are from *Lectioary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman.

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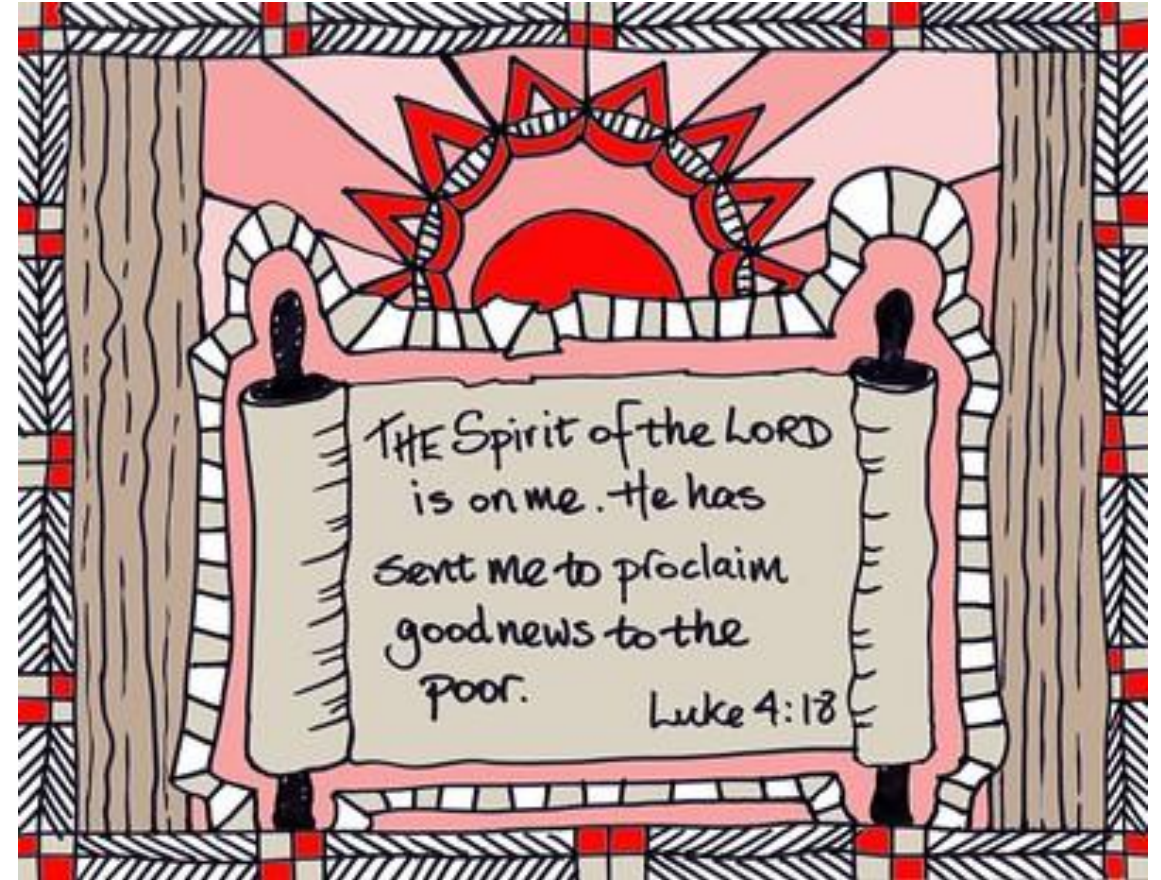
Sunday, January 26: 10:30am – Worship
Sunday School
Coffee
Annual Meeting after Worship and Potluck
Set up for International Delight Thai Fusion Dinner

Monday, January 27: 5:30-7pm: Thai Fusion International Delight Dinner

Tuesday, January 28: 9:30am.-Pastor at Feed Mill
Newsletter Deadline

Sunday, February 2: 10:30am – Worship with Sacrament of Communion
Sunday School
Coffee
Food Pantry

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, you may also drop them off at the Church Office.



*First Congregational
United Church of Christ*
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