

First Congregational United Church of Christ
"Where No One Is A Stranger"
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
February 5, 2025

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: With powerful words and dramatic gestures, with a quiet conversation and a gentle touch,

Many: we respond to God's call to offer healing and hope to our world.

One: With courage to face the injustices around us, with the willingness to go into the brokenness,

Many: we fulfill the call of Jesus to engage in faithful obedience.

One: With the patience of a teacher of six-year-olds, with the gentleness of a nurse helping a patient,

Many: we become the Spirit's refuge for all who live in worry and fear.

*Opening Song:

"O Splendor of God's Glory Bright"

#144

*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

Emmanuel, we welcome you in our midst. You amaze and inspire, challenge and convict, comfort and fortify. May we be open and receptive to your voice and presence among us. Let your words encourage us to be prophetic, passionate, and public in our ministry as we praise and honor your name. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(prayed together)

Ah, Lord God, we do not know how to speak words of hope, because we listen to the purveyors of fear. We do not know how to be loving because our role models are ridicule and anger. We do not know how to be faithful to you, because at an early age, we learned to trust the promises of all the false prophets who entice us with their simple thoughts.

But you know how to forgive, God of kindness, so we pray you would pour out your mercy upon us. May faith abide in us, so we may serve others even as you have served

us; may hope abide in us, so we may surround the broken with your compassion and grace; may love abide in us, not only in these moments of brokenness, but in every moment of our life with Jesus, our Savior, who abides in us.

A TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: The good news is that, in our God, we find that safe place for our lives. In God's forgiveness, we are offered the healing we need.

Many: In God's acceptance, we discover the love in which we may abide in every moment of our lives. Thanks be to God! Amen.

SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 4:21-30

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

inside back cover of hymnal

(read together)

*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

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

read from the *Common English Bible*

MESSAGE:

"Not Just For Weddings"

Pastor Chris

Communion Song:

"As We Gather at Your Table"

#695

GATHERING AT CHRIST'S TABLE

Invitation, Communion Prayer, Sanctus, Words of Institution, Consecration Prayer, Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors), Sharing the Bread and Cup

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:

We thank you, God, for the healing you have given us in the brokenness of bread and the pouring out of the cup, for the community that you have restored in us through the sharing of life, and for the courage and strength that you have promised to us. Send us forth from this place in love, letting justice be worked out with gentleness and power known in your Spirit. Amen.

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY** #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**

Giver of Good Gifts, may the gifts we give reflect your abundance and generosity. Use our time, talent, and treasure to serve our faith community and the world. May each offering be a seed that will grow, spread, and perfume the atmosphere with faith, hope, and love. Amen.

***Closing Song:** "We Are Called to Be God's People" #580

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

POSTLUDE

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

The Call to Worship, Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession (adapted), and Words of Assurance are from *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* from *Worship Ways- Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving (adapted) is by Sandra E. Graham, *from Touch Holiness-Resources for Worship* edited by Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi.

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Worship Leader:	Pastor Chris Burtnett
Lector:	David Burrow
Organist:	Antonia Rupert
February Radio Sponsor:	David Burrow

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Birthdays: February 1: Carol Kenyon; 3: Soraya Burtnett; 7: Josephine Reynolds

Sunday, February 2: 10:30am – Worship with Sacrament of Communion

Sunday School

Coffee

Food Pantry

Tuesday, February 4: 9:30am.-Pastor at Feed Mill

Wednesday, February 5: 7pm. -Board Meeting

Sunday, February 9: 10:30am – Worship

Sunday School

Coffee

Algona Community Blood Drive: Monday, February 3:12:30-5:30pm. at 1st United Methodist Church, Algona



*First Congregational
United Church of Christ
166 Years*

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