

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
"Where No One Is A Stranger"  
Sixth Sunday After the Epiphany  
February 16, 2025

## PRELUDE

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS+

### \*Call to Worship

(read responsively)

One: Blessed are those who trust - in God!

**Many: We come in trust, to be grounded in God's love.**

One: Blessed are those who hope - in God!

**Many: We come in hope, trusting in the One who gives us life.**

Many: Blessed are those who delight - in God's Word!

**Many: We come to hear God speak, hoping for healing and joy.**

### \*Opening Song:

"Come, We That Love the Lord"

#67

### \*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

Righteous God, you create us for community, and you commune with us. May we seek your presence anew this day and in the time to come. Help us to recognize you in the sound and feel of our own breath and in the movement or noise of those around us. Embolden us to faith that surpasses understanding and ministry that reflects radical trust in you and the path of abundance, compassion, and connection. Let our worship in song and prayer be a foreshadowing of our worship in action and witness. Transform us from despair to hope, complacency to courage, and indifference to love in your name. Amen.

## TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Abiding God, you come near to us. We give thanks that you do not turn away from us when our lives reflect messiness, ungraciousness, and complacency. Take us deeper, God, and help us to confront what needs to be known, addressed, and changed within us, our community, and our world. Forgive us and free us from guilt and shame so that

we might embrace a life of accountability and transformation for your glory, and for the hope of humanity. Amen.

## A TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: The Holy One has begun a good work in us and will see it through to completion. We have power to transform and grace to enter the newness of life.

**Many: God is near and comes down with us. God's mercy, forgiveness, and grace are the gifts that have been given. It is available, ours, and enough. Thanks be to God!**

### SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Jeremiah 17:5-10

### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

(read together)

**We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God. 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 6:17-26

read from the *Good News Bible*

### MESSAGE:

"How Terrible!"

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**

Generous God, you have planted generosity in our hearts. Receive our gifts as part of your redemptive work to save the world from inequities, pain, and despair. May our resources be renewed and magnified so that all needs are met and your name be praised. Amen.

**\* CLOSING SONG:** "God of Grace and God of Glory" #569

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

**POSTLUDE**

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

The Call to Worship and Call to Confession are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Opening Prayer, Prayer of Confession (adapted), Words of Assurance (adapted) 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 Affirmation of Faith* is from the United Church of Canada

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|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Organist:               | Antonia Rupert      |
| Worship Leader:         | David Burrow        |
| Pastor:                 | Rev. Chris Burtnett |
| February Radio Sponsor: | David Burrow        |

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Birthdays: February 17: Pat Beaver, Chauncy Taylor (220 years ago); 18: Karen Dearchs;  
20: Kris Schlievert

Sunday, February 16: 10:30am – Worship  
Sunday School  
Coffee

Tuesday, February 18: 9:30am.-Pastor at Feed Mill  
6:00 - 7:30 pm.-CCC English Class in Room E

Thursday, February 20: 6:00 - 7:30 pm.-CCC English Class in Room E

Sunday, February 23: 10:30am – Worship  
Sunday School  
Coffee



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