

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN-CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

January 31st, 2021

4th Sunday after Epiphany

MUSICAL PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP AND COUNTDOWN

MINI MOVIE

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE

PRELUDE Lead On O King Eternal (chimes)

Smart/Cota

CHORAL INTROIT I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

Anonymous

GREETING L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Great are the works of God and greatly to be praised.

God's righteousness endures forever.

We come together as a congregation of believers.

We give thanks to God with whole hearts.

God is gracious and merciful and trustworthy.

At all times, God is mindful of the covenant.

The works of God's hands are established among us.

We can count on God's righteousness and faithfulness.

Awe before God is the beginning of wisdom.

All who approach God in fear have good understanding.

Holy and awesome is God's name.

We call on God to empower our worship.

MORNING PRAYER (read by Lay Reader)

God of the prophets, help us to recognize your voice among the competing claims of our day. Raise up in our midst, authentic witnesses to your truth. Be present with us now to guide our prayers and praise. Let us not presume to know your message without careful listening or to speak your word without discerning the Spirit. Light your fires within us so we may heed your summons and give our best in your service. Amen.

*HYMN God Has Spoken by His Prophets

#311

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Faithful God, we have claimed to have more knowledge than we really possess. We have presumed to judge others on the basis of our limited understanding. We have grasped for freedom without taking full responsibility for our actions. Our witness

is weak and is directed primarily toward those with whom we prefer to associate. By our actions, some of our sisters and brothers are excluded, some are misled, and some are unjustly accused. If we have violated another's conscience, if we have caused someone to fall, we are deeply sorry. For failing to do all Christ expects of the church, we repent and seek your forgiveness. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

All who love God are known by God, whose intention is that we live by eternal values in a loving relationship with one another. God applauds our efforts to rid our lives of pseudo-gods we create, habits that destroy, and prejudices that divide. We count on God to understand us, to free us from our bondage to sin, and to dwell among us, transforming our lives. Praise God forever and ever!

*GLORIA PATRI

#805

SPECIAL MUSIC All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name (chimes)

Ellor/Cota

CHILDREN'S CHAT Pastor Jim

*HYMN He Leadeth Me, O Blessed Thought

#635

SCRIPTURE Deuteronomy 18:15-20(p.174); 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 (p.1043) & Mark 1:21-28 (p.910)

MESSAGE Rev. James Deters

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *On insert*

PERIOD OF GUIDED PRAYER Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

OFFERINGS OF GIFTS AND TITHES

OFFERTORY Amazing Grace (chimes)

arr. Patricia Sandors Cota

*DOXOLOGY

#809

*OFFERTORY PRAYER (unison)

By giving away some of the wealth we cherish so much, we keep ourselves focused on who you are, gracious God, and on what you expect of us. As the body of Christ, we seek to be a healing force in our world. May the offerings we present be used in ways that encourage healthful behaviors among us in the church, within our community, and as far as our influence can reach. Receive us and our gifts, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

*HYMN Blest Be the Tie That Binds verses 1, 3, 4

#708

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Go out to witness to the good news you have heard.

God is even now raising up prophets among us.

We thank God for this time of being together.

We are grateful for freedom to worship and grow.

God is establishing truth among us, inviting us to learn.

Dare to question and explore as disciples of Jesus.

We praise God for insight and guidance we have received.

We delight in ways we are able to help others.

God will supply us with words for our witness.

We will be led to offer others appropriate help.

All honor and majesty and glory be to God!

May we never stop praising God with our lives! Amen

***BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE TO BENEDICTION** God Be With You

POSTLUDE God of Grace

#840

Paul Manz

*All those who are able, please stand.

ORGANIST Nancy Dufek

CHOIR DIRECTOR Diana Mann

CHIMES DIRECTOR Myra Bliss

SINGERS Sheila Urling, Linda Bailey, Tim Delnay & Bill Handy

VMIX Jenny Delnay/Lynn Adams **SOUND** Chuck Gottschall

PRODUCTION Lynn Adams

TECH Ernie Bliss



Church office hours Monday--Friday from 8:15 a.m. to noon

Rev. James Deters, Pastor upccpastor@gmail.com

Kate Bernardo, Administrative Assistant kate.uppc@gmail.com

Church office phone 715-682-3093

United Presbyterian/Congregational Church

214 Vaughn Ave, Ashland, Wisconsin 54806

PASTOR: Reverend James Deters

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 am

SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30 am

Website: <https://upcchurch.org>

Like us on Facebook at United Presbyterian Congregational Church

Join our Facebook group at UPCC Connection

Illustration by Ben Cogger

AFFIRMATION

The saying is sure:

If we have died with Christ,

we will also live with him;

if we endure,

we will also reign with him;

if we deny him,

he will also deny us;

if we are faithless,

he remains faithful—

for he cannot deny himself.

2 Tim. 2:11-13

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Deuteronomy 18:15-20

p.174

The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." Then the Lord replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

p.1043

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does

not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him.

Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "no idol in the world really exists," and that "there is no God but one." Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. "Food will not bring us close to God." We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your

knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

Mark 1:21-28

p.910

They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him."

At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

ACTIVITIES

Annual Meeting Date: February 7th at Noon (Virtual meeting):

The annual meeting of the congregation will convene at noon on Sunday, February 7, 2021. Due to the ongoing public health emergency and in accordance with the permission granted by the Presbytery of Northern Waters, the annual meeting will be a live streamed affair. The congregation will not be able to meet in person but will gather together on the web at:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81567876554?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81567876554?pwd=QIVEREdFL0lJbm1NMm9yTldWdXRdDz09)

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(copy/paste the above link into your browser window)

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Anna Fridsma
- 2 Eileen VanPernis
- 3 Maya Rose Maki
- 5 Aaron Swanson Jr., Ryan Patrick Traaholt
- 6 Marge Walworth & Diana Mann

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Children's Chats We are looking for volunteers to do children's chats via video for our Sunday streaming services. If you would like to volunteer, need help with this, or need to learn how to do this please email ladams1055@gmail.com or text or call Lynn at 715-209-6784.

Communications Committee In an effort to keep the congregation informed of events and activities of interest to the church family, please submit announcements for inclusion in the Sunday bulletin. The submission deadline is noon every Tuesday. Please send your information to the church office via email to info@upcchurch.org.

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311 God Has Spoken by His Prophets

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets. . . Heb. 1:1

Descant

3. God is speak - ing by his Spir - it, speak - ing to our hearts a - gain;

1. God has spo - ken by his proph - ets, spo - ken his un - chang - ing Word,
2. God has spo - ken by Christ Je - sus, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Son,
3. God is speak - ing by his Spir - it, speak - ing to our hearts a - gain;

in the age - less Word ex - pound - ing God's own mes - sage, now as then.

each from age to age pro - claim - ing God, the one, the right - eous Lord.
bright - ness of the Fa - ther's glo - ry, with the Fa - ther ev - er one;
in the age - less Word ex - pound - ing God's own mes - sage, now as then.

Through the rise and fall of na - tions one sure faith yet stand - ing fast:

In the world's de - spair and tur - moil one firm an - chor holds us fast:
spo - ken by the Word in - car - nate, God of God, ere time was born;
Through the rise and fall of na - tions one sure faith yet stand - ing fast:

God a - bides, his Word un - chang - ing, God the first, and God the last.

God is king, his throne e - ter - nal, God the first, and God the last.
Light of Light, to earth de - scend - ing, Christ, as God in hu - man form.
God a - bides, his Word un - chang - ing, God the first, and God the last.

635 He Leadeth Me, O Blessed Thought

I am the Lord your God . . . who directs you in the way you should go. Is. 48:17

1. He lead - eth me, O bless - ed thought, O words with heaven - ly
 2. Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine, nor ev - er mur - mur
 3. And when my task on earth is done, when by thy grace the

com - fort fraught! What - e'er I do, wher - e'er I be, still
 nor re - pine, con - tent, what - ev - er lot I see, since
 vic - tory's won, e'en death's cold wave I will not flee, since

Refrain

'tis God's hand that lead - eth me.
 'tis my God that lead - eth me. He lead - eth me, he
 God through Jor - dan lead - eth me.

lead - eth me, by his own hand he lead - eth me! His

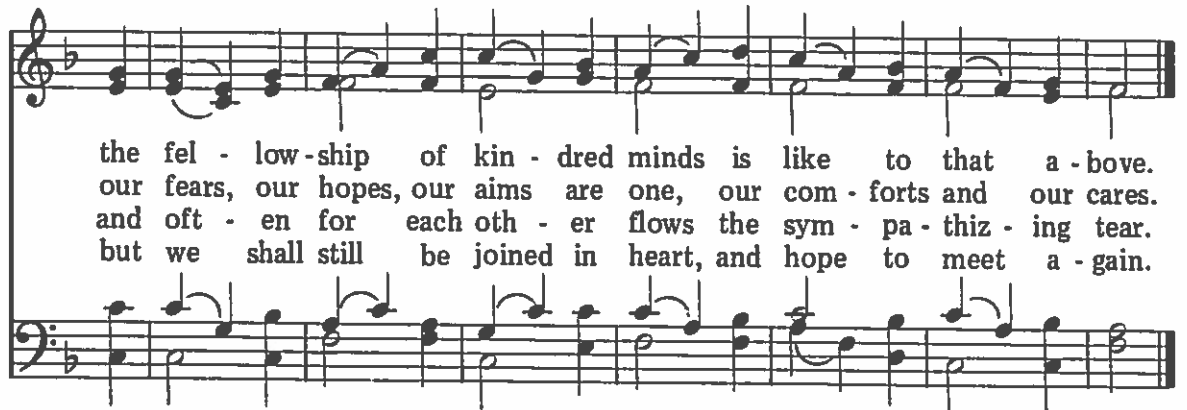
faith - ful fol - lower I would be, for by his hand he lead - eth me.

708 Blest Be the Tie That Binds

For you are all one in Christ Jesus. Gal. 3:28



1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;
2. Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;
3. We share each oth - er's woes, each oth - er's bur - dens bear;
4. When we are called to part, it gives us in - ward pain;



the fel - low - ship of kin - dred minds is like to that a - bove.
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
and oft - en for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
but we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet a - gain.

WORDS: John Fawcett, 1782, alt.
MUSIC: Johann G. Nägeli, 1828; arr. Lowell Mason, 1845

DENNIS
S.M.