

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Second Sunday after Epiphany
January 15, 2017, 10:00 A.M. Worship

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

A READING FROM SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 1:1-9
read from the *Common English Bible*

OPENING HYMN: “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

#72

SHARING JESUS’ PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: Happy are those who place their trust in God, who sing God’s praises with a new song.

Many: God’s amazing deeds are many and great. Their number is greater than the stars in the sky.

One: Happy are those who wait patiently for God, who cry out to God with their whole heart.

Many: For God hears our pleas and listens to our requests.

One: God is steadfast and faithful.

Many: Let’s worship the One for whom we wait.

OPENING PRAYER

(read together)

Transforming God, leader of life’s journeys, teach us what we need to learn—the ways and graces of creative, active waiting; the cry and the confidence of the psalmist; the honest testimony of the prophet; the inspiring vision and the voice of the mystic. Labor may sometimes seem in vain, yet surely you are present; surely you are here to deliver. Grant us eager hearts that we may delight to do your will. Amen.

TIME FOR THE CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEAR

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(read together)

God of Grace, we confess the uncertainty of our faith and the hesitancy of our commitment. We have misused the gifts you have given us, spending our strength for nothing but vanity. We have not trusted you or dared to risk courageous witness to the truth we have known. We have ignored your awesome deeds and hidden the light you have asked us to carry into the world. Forgive us and draw us back with your love so that we don’t sink beyond your reach. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

One: Come, dear friends and receive God's grace; see all that God is doing for you; follow Jesus, as he leads you closer to God.

Many: We will sing of God's love for us; we will sing a new song of hope and wonder. Thanks be to God. Amen.

A READING FROM SCRIPTURE

John 1:29-42

***HYMN:** “The Summons”

#350

***AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

(read together)

You, O God, are supreme and holy. You create our world and give us life. Your purpose overarches everything we do. You have always been with us. You are God.

You, O God, are infinitely generous, good beyond all measure. You came to us before we came to you. You have revealed and proved your love for us in Jesus Christ, who lived and died and rose again. You are with us now. You are God.

You, O God, are Holy Spirit. You empower us to be your gospel in all the world.

You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.

You are our God. We worship you. Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI**

#73

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Psalms 40:1-11
read from the *Common English Bible*

MESSAGE: “Waiting Faithfully”

Pastor Burtnett

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

***DOXOLOGY**

***DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

*HYMN: “We’ve a Story to Tell to the Nations”

#562

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Call to Worship (adapted), Opening Prayer, and Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) are from *The Abingdon Worship Annual, 2017* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu; Call to Confession (adapted) and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman; Prayer of Confession is from *Fresh Winds of the Spirit, Book 2-Liturgical Resources for Year A* by Lavon Bayler; Affirmation of Faith is from *A New Zealand Prayer Book*

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Organist:	Liz Reynolds
Lector:	David Burrow
Worship Leader:	Pastor Burtnett

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Birthdays: 1-17 David Phillips

Annual reports are due on the 15th of this month so that the information is available for the Annual meeting and potluck on the 29th.

Newsletter articles for February and March are due on the 29th.

Today we will take remove everything in the parlor and help prepare vegetables for the Christian Unity luncheon on Wednesday. Volunteers are need that morning to help prepare sandwiches and get ready before 11:30 am.

The Board meets this coming Wednesday at 5:30 pm.

The Week of Christian Unity begins on Monday the 16th. The Congregational church will host on Wednesday, the 18th.

Monday, Jan. 16- Algona Faith

Tuesday, Jan. 17-Evangelical Free Church

Wednesday, Jan 18-First Congregational UCC

Thursday, Jan. 19- St. Cecelia Catholic Church

Friday, Jan. 20-First Presbyterian

**First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa**



“Where No One Is A Stranger”

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