

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
Algona, Iowa  
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany  
January 29, 2017, 10:00 A.M. Worship

**PRELUDE**

**RINGING OF THE BELL**

**GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**A READING FROM SCRIPTURE**

Psalm 15

read from the *Common English Bible*

**\*OPENING SONG:** “Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates”

#176

**SHARING JESUS’ PEACE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

(read responsively)

One: Come and be still before God, and wait patiently;

**Many: We are here to delight in God, who fulfills the desires of our hearts.**

One: Come, not in your wisdom, but in humility;

**Many: We come, not to boast, but to learn.**

One: Come, without power or conceit;

**Many: We bring our weakness more than our strength.**

One: Consider your call and commit your way to God;

**Many: We will trust in God to grant us light and new life.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

(read together)

God, who heals, and asks us to heal in your name: In Jesus, you showed us a more excellent way, asking us to follow in the way of justice, kindness and humility. We believe the realm of heaven belongs to all who work your will. Shape us in the image of Christ, the optimist, the healer, the risk-taker, who preached possibility, who lived compassion, who taught mercy. Make pure our hearts, that we might serve others and, thus, see you. Teach us again what is truly pure and noble in your sight. Amen.

**TIME FOR THE CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEAR**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

(read together)

What have we done to you, dear God? We dishonor you every time we treat another with disrespect. We shatter your heart when we find it easier to break our word, than to take the risk to keep it. We fill your ears with the gossip, lies, and slander. We speak about those around us.

You are wise enough to forgive our foolishness; you are strong enough to overcome our weakness; you are loving enough to heal the hurt we cause to you and to others. And so you give us new hope and new life in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

**A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

(read responsively)

One: What has God done to us - shown mercy! What has God done for us - forgiven us! This is the good news for us.

**Many: We will not boast, for it is not our doing. We will give thanks to God for such grace and hope. Amen.**

**A READING FROM SCRIPTURE**

Matthew 5:1-12

**\*MIDDLE SONG:** “Blest Are They”

#666

**\*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

(read together)

**We believe in God, a divine presence, gentle and loving, the ground of our being.**

**We believe in Jesus, who demonstrated to us the love of God, and who urged his followers to express that love in their daily lives.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, as God’s continuing presence in our world, surrounding us in compassionate love.**

**We believe in the church where people gather to learn about and praise God, to share our concern for one another, and to bring justice and healing to all of God’s Creation. Amen.**

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

#73

**FOCUS SCRIPTURE**

Micah 6:1-8

read from the *Common English Bible*

MESSAGE: "You Know!"

Pastor Burtnett

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

\*DOXOLOGY

\*DEDICATION OF OFFERING

\*CLOSING SONG: "We Are Called to Be God's People"

#580

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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

=====

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

=====

Birthdays: 2-01 Carol Kenyon, 2-04Suzanne Taylor, Laurel Walker

Newsletter articles for February and March are due on the 31st.  
The radio broadcast sign-up sheet needs sponsors.

First Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
Algona, Iowa



"Where No One Is A Stranger"

315 S. Moore Street – Algona, IA 50511  
515-295-2845