

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
Algona, Iowa  
Seventh Sunday after Epiphany  
February 19, 2017, 10:00 A.M. Worship

**PRELUDE**

**RINGING OF THE BELL**

**GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**A READING FROM SCRIPTURE**

Psalm 119:33-40  
read from the *Good News Bible*

**\*OPENING SONG:** “Give to Our God Immortal Praise”

#63

**SHARING JESUS' PEACE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

(read responsively)

One: Called here to God's temple, you are the temple of love.

**Many: We are the temple of love.**

One: Called here to worship, you are the people of God.

**Many: We are the children of God.**

One: Called to be love, you are a holy people.

**Many: We gather here in the holiness of God's love.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

(read together)

**We have come to worship you, God. We thought we could come on our own terms, but your word proclaims *your* rule over this gathering and in all your creation. Help us hear your will for us, not as limiting and oppressive but as the freeing, fulfilling pathway to life. We want to be your faithful children. We want to experience life at its best. Amen.**

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

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

(read together)

**Gracious God, we demonstrate again and again that we do not understand your ways. We have forgotten that you call us to standards far different from the accepted norms of our society. We confess that we have dealt falsely with others. We have benefitted from systems that defraud many of a living wage for their labors. We have slandered people you invite us to love and hated some for whom you have asked us to pray. We admit, God, that we are a people of vengeance and grudges. We cry out to you for help, seeking your forgiveness. Amen.**

**A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

(read responsively)

One: This is the good news: we belong to Christ. He is the One who comes bringing life and hope to all.

**Many: Because we belong to Christ, we belong to God. The Holy One is also the Merciful One, who fills our hearts with love. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.**

**A READING FROM SCRIPTURE**

1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23

**\*MIDDLE SONG:** “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”

#405

**\*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

(read together)

**We are God's. We belong to The One who creates all things, in whose image all people are made.**

**We are Christ's. He has loved us, healed us, called us, and anointed us with his Spirit. We belong to his death and resurrection and ministry.**

**We are the Spirit's. We belong to the church, the Body of Christ. God gives us the gifts of forgiveness, resurrection, and eternal life, and the gift of participating in the healing of the world by God's grace.**

**As God's beloved, we devote ourselves to God and to God's will, wholly, joyfully and with the help of Christ. Amen.**

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

#73

**FOCUS SCRIPTURE**

Matthew 5:38-48  
read from the *Good News Bible*

MESSAGE: "Nobody's Perfect"

Pastor Burtnett

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

\*DOXOLOGY

\*DEDICATION OF OFFERING

\*CLOSING SONG: "Take Time to Be Holy"

#483

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship (adapted) and Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) are from *The Abingdon Worship Annual, 2017* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu; The Opening Prayer (adapted) and Prayer of Confession (adapted) are from *Taught by Love-Worship Resources for Year A* by Lavon Bayler. The Call to Confession and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Affirmation of Faith is by Steve Garnaas-Holmes.

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

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February Radio Sponsors: Scott and Sandy Buchanan

Birthdays: 2/20 Kris Schlievert

Today members of our church will gather at 4:30 pm to prepare a meal for the Strengthening Family's meal. Let Holly know if you can be of help.

This coming Wednesday the Adult Discussion group will meet at Chuck West's at 7 pm.

March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1:30 pm we will host the World Day of Prayer.

Please sign up to sponsor a month for the radio broadcasts.

March is the Meals on Wheels month for our church. The sign-up sheet is in the parlor.

First Congregational Church  
 United Church of Christ  
 Algona, Iowa



"Where No One Is A Stranger"

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