

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
First Sunday in Lent
March 5, 2017

PRELUDE
RINGING OF THE BELL
GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE FIRST READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Matthew 4:1-11
read from the *Common English Bible*

OPENING SONG: “This Is My Father’s World”

#21

SHARING JESUS’ PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

One: In the wilderness of life, we are not alone.

Many: God is with us, even in the midst of our loneliness.

One: On treacherous paths, God’s guidance is ours.

Many: We will walk in God’s ways of wisdom and truth.

One: Come to hear. Come to learn. Come to the hiding place of God.

Many: Here we find grace. Here we find love. Here we will worship and pray.

OPENING PRAYER (read together)

God, you are our hiding place and our refuge in the time of distress. We turn to you now, seeking comfort from the wounds of the world and power to face all our afflictions. Be present in our struggle, and help us to rest in your eternal promises, that we might be fed both with the bread of the world and the nourishment of your word, strong to resist temptation and faithful in our worship of you. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (read together)

Creative, passionate God, you delight to shape the world in beauty and harmony. You invite us to participate in the balance of creation. We grow in wisdom as our experience unfolds; we take good learning out of difficult situations yet also find our well-meant endeavors leading to unintended consequences. Too often we give in to temptation that disrupts the joyous, chaotic order of the universe. We cannot undo all our mistakes, but we can turn once more to the living presence of Jesus and find new ways to live and love each other and the earth. Do not let our hearts be fearful, but let us in silence acknowledge our sin and seek the forgiveness that restores your peace. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

One: Be glad and rejoice! Give thanks with shouts of joy! Grace abounds for everyone.

Many: With glad cries of deliverance, we offer our thanks to God who loves us and forgives us. Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

MIDDLE SONG: “Trust and Obey”

#443

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (read together)

UCC Statement of Faith-back of hymnal

GLORIA PATRI

#734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Psalm 32
read from *The Message*

MESSAGE: “Fess Up”

Pastor Burnett

GATHERING AT THE LORD’S TABLE

Invitation, Communion Prayer, Words of Institution, Consecration Prayer, Lord’s Prayer, Sharing the Bread and Cup

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (READ TOGETHER)

Thank you, God, for renewing us at your table by the presence of Jesus. Thank you for your steadfast love, the Bread of Life, that sustains all creation. May you continue to love us in our faithful acts and by that love discourage us from our unfaithful acts, that we might rejoice as your faithful servants to the world. Amen.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

***DOXOLOGY**

***DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

CLOSING SONG: “Amazing Grace”

#422

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship and Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) are from *The Abingdon Worship Annual, 2017* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu. The Call to Confession, and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Opening Prayer and Prayer of Confession are from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Affirmation of Faith is our United Church of Christ Statement of Faith. The Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving is from *Flames of the Spirit-Resources for Worship Like Bread for the Journey* edited by Ruth C. Duck.

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Organist:	Carter Nath
Lector:	David Burrow
Worship Leader:	Pastor Burnett

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March Radio Sponsors: John and Helen Scuffham

Birthdays: 3-10 Elise Vaske

Tuesday: 2 pm Bible Study at Good Samaritan

5 pm Missions and Memorial committee meets at VanBuren Terrace

Wednesday: No Fellowship meeting

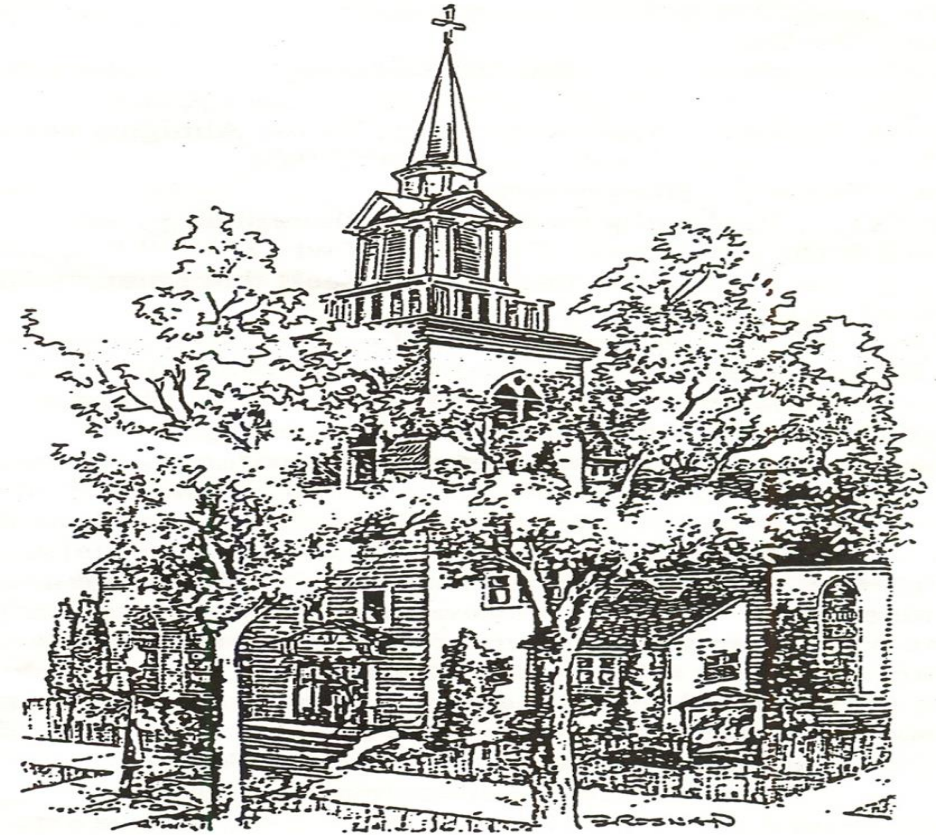
Thank you Carter for playing today.

The newest Our Daily Bread has been put out for you to read.

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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