

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Third Sunday in Lent
March 19, 2017

PRELUDE
RINGING OF THE BELL
GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE FIRST READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Psalm 95
read from *The Message*

OPENING SONG: “Come, Let Us Praise the Lord”

#9

SHARING JESUS' PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

One: Water gushing from a rock...living waters welling up to eternal life.

Many: These are gifts from the One who pours love into our hearts through the power of the Holy Spirit.

One: Come and drink deeply. Taste and see that our God is good.

Many: We gather to worship the One who feeds us and quenches the thirst of our bodies, minds, and spirits.

OPENING PRAYER (read together)

We come to you, God, because we are thirsty. Our spirits need the refreshing water of your word, just as our bodies need the refreshment of a cool drink. We worship you with joy, for we can already feel the gift of your presence all around us. Now open our ears that we may hear all that you expect of us. Open our lives to your truth and prepare us to follow Jesus in accepting the unacceptable, challenging the conventional and joining together in a harvest for your realm. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSTION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (read together)

What will you do with us, God? We are never satisfied with our lot. We rebel and complain when things don't go our way. We chase after things that become gods to us, consuming our time, energy, and attention. We spend little time in communion with you and then begin to doubt your presence. You seem far away and unavailable. We create barriers among ourselves that separate us from one another and from you. Send your living water to cleanse us, God. Empower us to worship in spirit and in truth. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

One: God does not disappoint us. Our sins are forgiven, our lives are made whole, we are sent forth to serve.

Many: In Jesus Christ, living water breaks through the roof of our hearts, in such abundance that we don't have enough buckets to hold it all. Thanks be to God. Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 17:1-7

MIDDLE SONG: “If You Will Trust in God to Guide You”

#429

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (read together)

We sing of God the Spirit, who from the beginning has swept over the face of creation, animating all energy and matter and moving in the human heart. We sing of God the Spirit, faithful and untamable, who is creatively and redemptively active in the world. The Spirit challenges us to celebrate the holy not only in what is familiar, but also in that which seems foreign. We sing of the Spirit, who speaks our prayers of deepest longing and enfolds our concerns and confessions, transforming us and the world. We offer worship as an outpouring of gratitude and awe and a practice of opening ourselves to God's still, small voice of comfort, to God's rushing whirlwind of challenge. Through word, music, art, and sacrament, in community and in solitude, God changes our lives, our relationships, and our world. Amen

GLORIA PATRI

#734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

John 4: 5-42
read from the *Common English Bible*

MESSAGE: "Refreshing"

Pastor Burtnett

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

***DOXOLOGY**

***DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

CLOSING SONG: "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken"

#598

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship (adapted) and Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) from *The Abingdon Worship Annual, 2017* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu. The Opening Prayer and Prayer of Confession 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 excerpted from *Song of Faith* of the United Church of Canada (2006). <http://www.united-church.ca/beliefs/statements/songfaith>

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Organist: Liz Reynolds
Lector: David Burrow
Worship Leader: Pastor Burtnett
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March Radio Sponsors: John and Helen Scuffham

Birthdays: 3-23 Helen Scuffham, 3-24 Isaac Hines, 3-25 Todd Reynolds

Today we will be having the first of two Lenten Movies at 4:30 pm. Come and enjoy the first movie "Oh God". We will have popcorn. Please bring what you would like to drink.

The Board will meet at 7 pm Wednesday.

Pastor Burnett will be in Des Moines on Thursday for a seminar and on Saturday will be at Pilgrim Heights for a Board meeting.

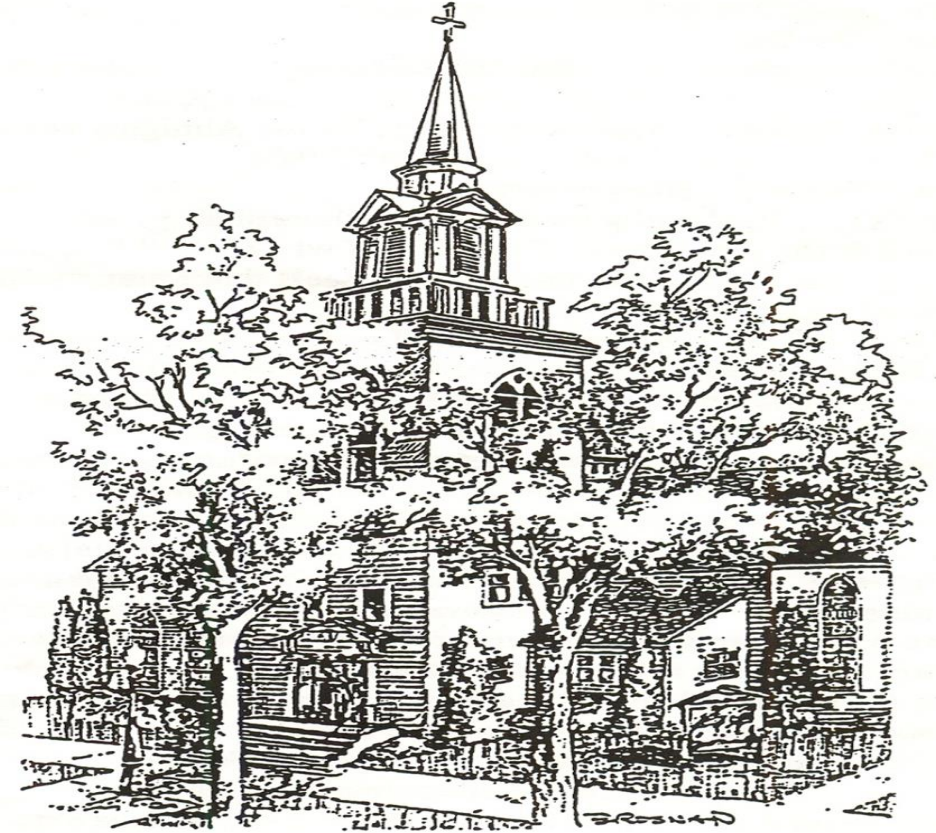
The Trash, Treasure and Bake sale are coming at the end of April-soon. Please bring your items in as soon as possible and remember we will need baked items for sale.

The Cornbelt Chorus will be holding their concert on the 25th at the Wilcox Performing Art Center.

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be taken on the 26th. A potluck will follow worship.

Newsletter articles are due on Friday the 31st of March.

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United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa**



"Where No One Is A Stranger"

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