

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 26, 2017

PRELUDE
RINGING OF THE BELL
GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE FIRST READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 5:8-14
read from the *Common English Bible*

OPENING SONG: "Gather Us In"

#649

SHARING JESUS' PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

One: Draw near to the light of God's love.

Many: God summons us to wake up and see.

One: Light has come to us to lead us to all that is good.

Many: God is light to all who are stumbling in darkness.

One: Gather in the name of Jesus, the light of the world and our light.

Many: We have come to worship our God, who feeds and enlightens us.

OPENING PRAYER (read together)

Holy God, we sense your involvement in our lives. Like a shepherd, you watch over us and provide abundantly for our needs. You lead us in right paths when we are tempted to go astray. You refresh us with living water that overflows with your generosity. Let your light shine on us now to reveal the truth we have not seen and open our eyes to the possibilities we may not have realized. May we be receptive to learn from you and one another. Amen

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (read together)

Holy Jesus, we confess that we fail to question our own sightlessness. Being so sure that we "see", we miss the truths you would teach us. With the poultice of your love, cure this blindness. Open our eyes to our own misunderstandings, our own failures and our own faults. Make our "shadow side" known to us and help us to diminish it with the light of your grace. For it is only when we see ourselves clearly that we can worship you truly. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

One: The One who is the Light of the World restores us, guiding us onto right paths and filling us with light.

Many: In the name of Christ, we are forgiven, healed, and comforted. Thanks be to God!

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

1 Samuel 16:1-13

MIDDLE SONG: "Spirit of the Living God"

#492

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(sung together) #673

GLORIA PATRI

#734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

John 9:1-41
read from *The Message*

MESSAGE: "Are You Blind?"

Pastor Burtnett

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

***DOXOLOGY**

***DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

CLOSING SONG: "Be Thou My Vision"

#502

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

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

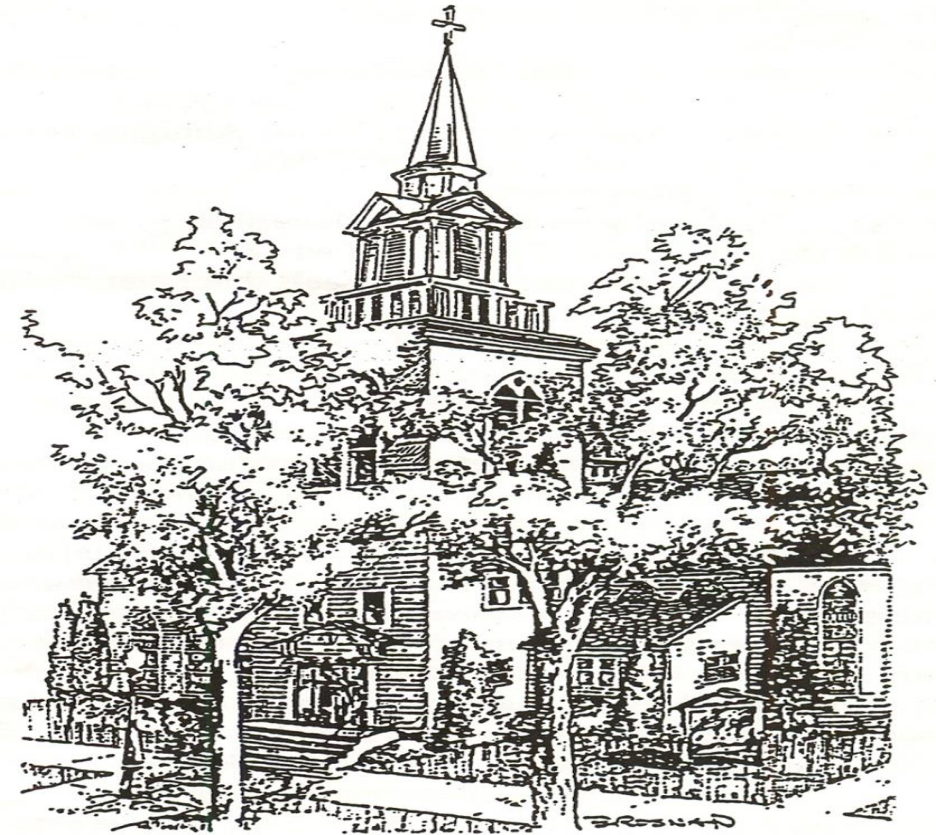
=====
Organist: Liz Reynolds
Lector: David Burrow
Worship Leader: Pastor Burtnett
=====

March Radio Sponsors: John and Helen Scuffham

Birthdays: 3-26 Gene Vaske, 3-29 Alicia Remy, 4-1 Jan Woodyard

The potluck will be held after church today.
The Adult Discussion group will meet Wednesday, the 29th, at 7 pm at Chuck West's.
Newsletter articles are due in the office on Friday, the 31st.
Next Sunday will be Communion and Food Pantry collection.

**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