

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
Algona, Iowa  
Fifth Sunday in Lent  
April 2, 2017

**PRELUDE**  
**RINGING OF THE BELL**  
**GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**THE FIRST READING FROM SCRIPTURE**

Psalm 130  
read from the *Common English Bible*

**OPENING SONG:** “Give to Our God Immortal Praise” #63

**SHARING JESUS’ PEACE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (read responsively)

One: Come, listen for a word from our God.

**Many: Our spirits are filled with great expectation!**

One: Come and receive the refreshment God offers.

**Many: God calls us here to breathe new life into us.**

One: Rejoice in the Spirit of God, which dwells in you.

**Many: We will celebrate and give thanks to God, the source of new life.**

**OPENING PRAYER** (read together)

God of Steadfast love, bring new life to this community of your people. We are eager to hear your voice and be filled with your Spirit. Send your Spirit upon us and bring vitality and purpose to our gathering, that we might be energized and encouraged. Hear our voices, lifted up in praise and crying out from our need. Be attentive to our requests, lest we die apart from you. Only you can unbind us and set us free. Amen.

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

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (read together)

Revitalizing God, your power goes far beyond our own, and yet still we act as though the pains of this world have final claim upon us. We give in to the despair and hopelessness of death, not trusting in your ability to call forth new life from the tombs of our lives. Forgive us for doubting your power to raise up new life in the midst of all the deaths we experience. Forgive us for wanting to limit you to “the last day” or “the world beyond this one”, not trusting you to move and act among us, within us, and through us. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE** (read responsively)

One: You can put your hope in God, dear friends, for God offers us that love which never fades, that life which never ends.

**Many: We wait for God, and God does not fail us. God's hope, God's love, and God's grace are forever. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING**

John 11:1-45

**MIDDLE SONG:** “Hymn of Promise”

#515

**AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

(read together) back of hymnal

**GLORIA PATRI**

#734

**FOCUS SCRIPTURE**

Romans 8:6-11  
read from the *Common English Bible*

**MESSAGE:** “A New Attitude”

Pastor Burtnett

**GATHERING AT THE TABLE**

Invitation, Communion Prayer, Words of Institution, Prayer of Consecration, Lord’s Prayer

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us out into the world with courage and in peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**OFFERING OUR GIFTS**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**\*DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

**CLOSING SONG:** “Lord of the Dance”

#118

**\*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 (adapted) is from *Fresh Winds of the Spirit, Book 2 Liturgical Resources for Year A* by Lavon Bayler. The Words of Assurance are 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 Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) is from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2017* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu. The Affirmation of Faith is our *United Church of Christ Statement of Faith*. The Prayer of Thanksgiving (adapted) is from *United Church of Christ Book of Worship*

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Organist: Liz Reynolds  
Lector: David Burrow  
Worship Leader: Pastor Burtnett  
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April Radio Sponsors: Don and Becky Marine

Birthdays: 4-2 Harold Reynolds, 4-6 Carter Bachman, 4-7 Becky Marine

We will do outside work after church today.

Thursday at 6 pm we will host missionaries. Dinner will be followed by their presentation of their mission experiences.

Next Sunday a potluck brunch will follow the church service.

On Maundy Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, we will be going to the First Methodist Church for worship. A soup meal will begin at 6:30 pm followed by the service. There will be a cantata performance during the service. Anyone interested in participating in the cantata, practice is on Wednesday of this week and next at 7 pm.

**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