

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Palm Sunday/Sixth Sunday in Lent
April 9, 2017

PRELUDE
RINGING OF THE BELL
GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE FIRST READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
read from the *Good News Bible*

OPENING SONG: “All Glory, Laud, and Honor” #265

SHARING JESUS’ PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

One: We gather in this place, raising our branches in joy!

Many: Joining all who wish to see Jesus,...eager for a healing touch, a blessing received.

One: We gather in this place, raising our branches in hope!

Many: Joining all who wish to hear Jesus...longing for a message of welcome and acceptance on our journey.

One: We gather in this place, laying down our branches in fear.

Many: Wondering if we can walk with Jesus through the week ahead, through the anguish, accusations and despair.

One: We gather in this place, waving branches of prayer.

Many: Walking toward the cross, and the empty tomb.

OPENING PRAYER (read together)

Hosanna, O God in the highest! How you come to us in ways we never expect. A king on a donkey? A Savior on a cross? How can we recognize you, with us, among us? Will your message come through? Will the palms we wave with joy today be thrown down tomorrow with doubt? May your Spirit guide us through this Holiest of Weeks, beside us, around us, before us, behind us, and within us. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (read together)

With joy in our hearts, we welcome your servant, O God, only to reject him when he picks up a cross instead of a crown. Like cloaks laid on the ground before Jesus, we pick up our faith, dust it off and put it back in the closet until we need it. We can be as stubborn and rebellious as the city, which cheers your name.

Save us, Redeeming God, save us! May we lay our doubts, our fears, our worries, our weariness, at your feet, trusting and believing that you will forgive what is sinful, make whole our brokenness, and welcome us as sisters and brothers of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

One: Hosanna to David's Son! Blessed is the One who comes in God's name, not to judge us, but to save us.

Many: We humble ourselves in gratitude to God, and in service to others, even as Christ did. Hosanna in the highest. Amen!

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Philippians 2:5-11

MIDDLE SONG: “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name” #106

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(sung together)

We believe in the God who is the pillar of fire and the pillar of cloud. We trust in our Holy Parent who judges and shows mercy. We hope in our Creator who is faithful to all that is seen and unseen.

We believe in the Jesus who rode in triumph into Jerusalem. We trust in the Messiah who was crucified, died, and was buried. We hope in the living Christ who walked out of the tomb.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, giver of faith and formation. We trust in the Breath of Life who stirs, sustains, and sanctifies. We hope in our Advocate who brings to us, and through, us the gift of God’s peace. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI

#734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Matthew 21:1-11
read from *The Message*

MESSAGE: "What's Going on Here?"

Pastor Burtnett

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

***DOXOLOGY**

***DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

CLOSING SONG: "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

#267

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship (adapted) and Opening Prayer are from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Offering Prayer of Dedication is from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2017* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu. The Affirmation of Faith is by Rev. Julia Seymour, Lutheran Church of Hope, Anchorage, Alaska.

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Organist:	Julie Murphy
Lector:	David Burrow
Worship Leader:	Pastor Burtnett

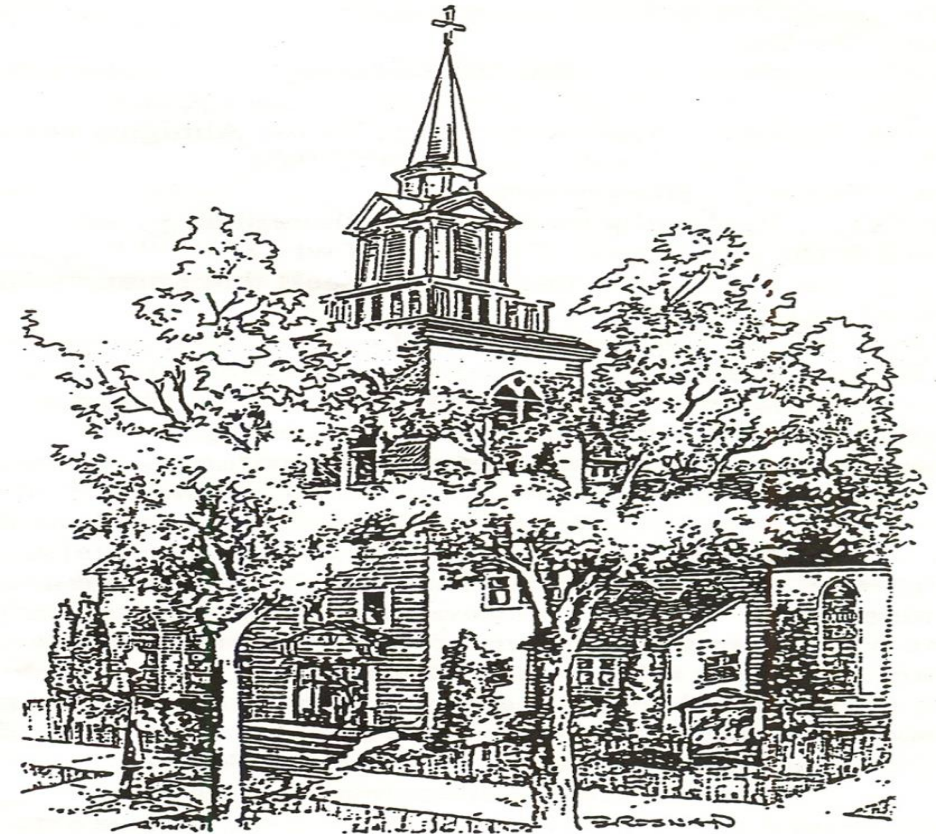
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April Radio Sponsors: Don and Becky Marine

Birthdays: 4-11 Marabeth Ostwald, 4-13 John Scuffham

Please join us for brunch today following the service.
 Carter Nath will be performing his senior piano and vocal concert at 4 pm today at the Wilcox Performing Arts Center. This event is open to the public.
 Monday will be the community blood drive at the Methodist church starting at 12:30 pm.
 Lily orders need to be in the office by this coming Tuesday. They are \$10 each.
 The Maundy Thursday service begins at 6:30 pm at the Methodist church. Soup will be served then followed by the service.
 Friday we will host the ecumenical Good Friday service at 7 pm.

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 United Church of Christ
 Algona, Iowa**



"Where No One Is A Stranger"

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