

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 14, 2017

PRELUDE
RINGING OF THE BELL
GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE FIRST READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
read from the *Common English Bible*

OPENING SONG: “Come, Christians, Join to Sing” #87

SHARING JESUS’ PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

Leader: Jesus said, I go to prepare a place for you.

People: We gather here to know Christ’s presence and love, now and always.

Leader: Jesus said, I am the way, the truth and the light. If you know me, you know God.

People: We are here to know Christ more deeply, that we may know God more intimately, now and always.

Leader: Jesus said, Ask me for anything, and I will do it.

People: We are here to learn how to ask for the right things, that we may fulfill Christ’s will, now and always.

Leader: Jesus said, Believe in me, and “Follow me.”

People: We are gathered here to worship Christ fully – believing and following –now and always.

OPENING PRAYER (read together)

Ever-gracious, Way-Making God, we celebrate the gifts of your Spirit. You have not fed us a diet of shame or shrinking, but with the milk of your truth, you have made us strong and faithful servants of Christ. You call us to take up the mantle of justice and to follow wherever faith leads us. You fill us with strength and hope, and you invite us to share in the cost and joys of discipleship. You promise us splendor and beauty in this life and in

the world to come. Meet us here, we pray, that your word will be fulfilled in our hearing and that your Spirit will fill us with courage. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (read together)

Hear the brokenness of our lives, Precious God. We cover our ears so we cannot hear the cries of those in need, or you urging us to respond. We rush together to defend every issue that matters to us, but quickly disperse when you would call us to be your holy people. We shout as loud as we can to cheer on our sports teams, but can manage only whispers when it comes to sharing the good news.

Forgive us, our Eternal Guide, and do not hold our sins against us. We lay the garments of our foolishness at your feet, so you might clothe us in grace and hope. We would feed on the spiritual food which flows from your heart so we might be strong enough to follow Jesus as he leads us in the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

Leader: We are no longer alone - we are God's Beloved. We are not of this world, but residents of God's realm. We, who once had no hope, have been filled with forgiveness.

People: Each one of us, all of us, have received God's mercy in Christ. Forgiven, redeemed, made whole - we are a people made one in faith. Thanks be to God. Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

John 14:1-14

MIDDLE SONG: “Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life”

#403

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (read together)

We believe in God: who created each of us, who breathed into us our uniqueness, who delights in who we are, and what we still can become.

We believe in the love of God: who laughs with us in our joy, cries with us in our pain, who wants all creation to seek peace, reconciliation, and love for each other.

We believe in the justice of God as revealed in scripture, and through the lives of prophets of yesterday and today.

God alone created us. We are not alone; God loves us. Nothing will separate us from the love of God. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI

#734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

1 Peter 2: 2-10
read from the *Common English Bible*

MESSAGE: “Stones”

Pastor Burtnett

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

***DOXOLOGY**

***DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

CLOSING SONG: “Built on The Rock”

#546

***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 (adapted) are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Prayer of Dedication is from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2017* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu. The Affirmation of Faith (adapted) is from *Shaping Sanctuary-Proclaiming God’s Grace in an Inclusive Church* edited by Kelly Turney.

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

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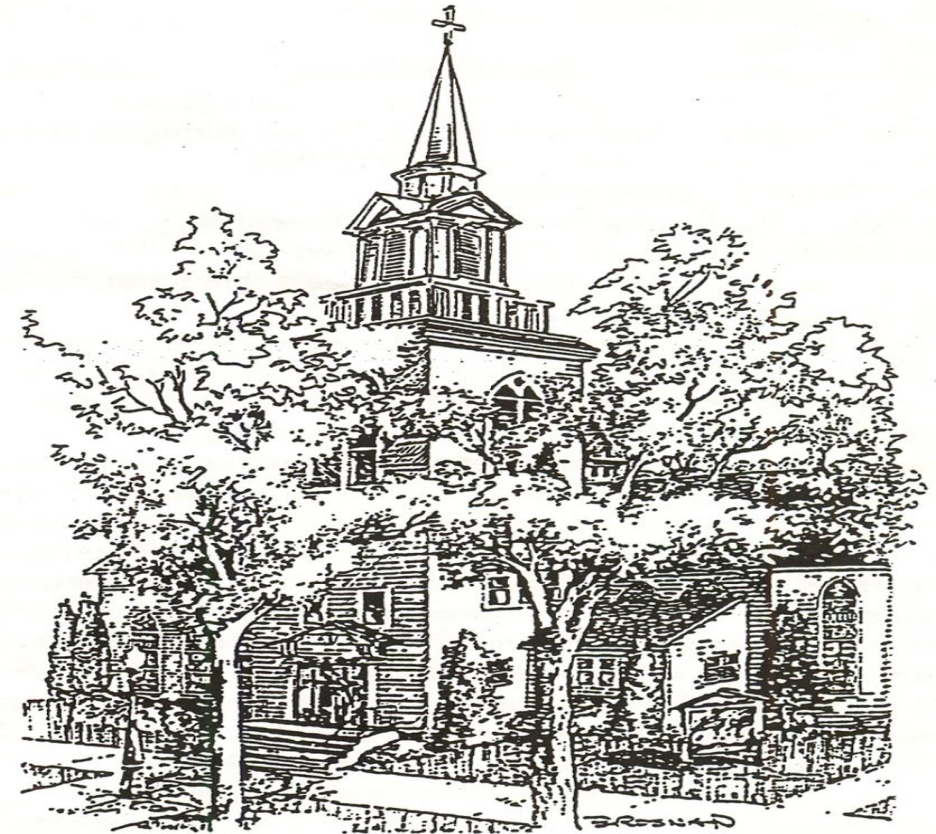
May Radio Sponsor: Ginny Buchanan

Birthdays:

Our church will be taking donations for Karen Dearchs to celebrate the anniversary of her ordination. The last day to donate will be the 28th. A reminder that we will be joining the Methodists for services and meal on June 4, at 9:30 am.

Newsletter articles and pictures on due in the office by May 30th.

**First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa**



“Where No One Is A Stranger”

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