

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Second Sunday after Epiphany
January 14, 2018

PRELUDE
RINGING OF THE BELL
GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE FIRST READING FROM SCRIPTURE

John 1:43-51
read from the *Common English Bible*

OPENING SONG: "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

#71

SHARING JESUS' PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

Leader: God calls our name.

People: We wonder who is calling.

Leader: God calls our name.

People: We go another way.

Leader: God calls our name.

People: We long to be here.

Leader: God calls our name.

People: We have come to worship and to listen for God's word.

OPENING PRAYER

(read together)

Creator God, you know us better than we can know ourselves. You understand our thoughts, our desires, our joys, and our struggles. You call to us, inviting us to listen to your word. You speak your word, calling us into a deeper relationship with you. Open our hearts, that we may hear you clearly. Strengthen our spirit, that we may have the courage to answer your call. Be present in this time of worship and draw us closer to you. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(read together)

Holy One, you have called us by name. You will not let us lounge in bed. You wake us up in the middle of the night to remember your many good works. You will not let us hide under the tree. You summon us from the shade to be changed from the ways we have separated ourselves from you, one another, and our very best selves, into the disciples you have called us to be. You will not let us bury our secrets within the earth. You unearth our fears and speak them aloud so we can see that with you standing beside us there is nothing of which we should be afraid. Forgive us, O God, when we cannot speak. Reveal the words we need most. In Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

Leader: Come and see! God's grace is poured out on everyone, God's hope is freely shared in every moment, forgiveness is the gift which mends our foolish lives.

People: Thanks be to God. We are surrounded by God's love and mercy, now and to the very end! Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

MIDDLE SONG: "Here I am, Lord"

#559

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

I believe in an innovative God, who does not wait for us to find ourselves but comes seeking the lost and calling us into a new way.

I believe in Jesus of Nazareth as God's crucial initiative, that when he calls us to follow, Christ also gives us the power to become, both in creed and deed, the children of the living God.

I believe in the Spirit by whom Jesus still comes to us, calling us to follow him into an obedience which is true liberty and to a humble service which is the fruit of holy friendship.

I believe in the church as the fellowship of Christ's people, called to respect and support one another through joys and tribulations as we travel the road towards the "promised land" of God's future.

Because Christ has called me in this I truly believe. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI

#734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

1 Samuel 3:1-20
read from the *Common English Bible*

MESSAGE: “Called”

Pastor Burnett

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY**

Words #44

***DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

CLOSING SONG: “Lord, Speak to Me”

#593

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, and Offering Prayer of Dedication are from *The Abingdon Worship Annual-2018* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu. The Prayer of Confession is from *Worship Ways – Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Call to Confession and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies by Thom M. Shuman*. The Affirmation of Faith is written by Bruce Prewer.

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

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January Radio Sponsor: Marilyn Deal

Birthdays:

Annual Reports and Newsletter articles are due by the 28th of this month.
The Week of Prayer will be held starting on the 22nd, here at our fellowship hall. Helpers will be needed.
Women’s Fellowship will again be collecting items for the trash and treasure sale. Our inventory is very low and needs some new items for the sale. As always, please bring you items to the south east fellowship hall basement.

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



“Where No One Is A Stranger”

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