

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
Algona, Iowa  
Third Sunday after Epiphany  
January 21, 2018

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

**THE FIRST READING FROM SCRIPTURE**

Psalm 62:5-12  
read from the *Good News Bible*

**OPENING SONG:** “Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above”

#56

**SHARING JESUS’ PEACE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

(read responsively)

Leader: We have come here to praise God, who has done wonderful things among us.

**People: In Jesus, God has shown us love, giving light for our darkness, and strength for all our days.**

Leader: Sing praise to God’s name, bow before God in prayer, open you hearts to God’s saving word.

**People: Our light has come! Let’s worship our marvelous God who gifts us with love and grace, who calls us to share God’s good news with everyone.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

(read together)

We thank you, God, for calling us into your church to be your people. We have gathered here because we have heard your call. You have reached out to us in Jesus Christ, you have touched us with your Spirit; and we have turned toward you, seeking to love as we have been loved. We call upon your holy name: empower us to worship and serve you, walking gently on this earth, through the grace of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

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

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

(read together)

Our comfortable lives convince us we do not need to follow Jesus, Steadfast God. Our work provides for our wants, so we have no need for your grace. Our friends are found through social media, so we do not need your community. Our fear of the beliefs and cultures of others makes us sure that we do not need to share your grace with them.

Forgive us for dragging our feet as Jesus' disciples, Compassionate God. May we get up from our comfort zones and step out in faith. May we go to all the uncomfortable places to bring hope. May we proclaim with our lips, but especially with our lives, that the kingdom of love is near, brought by Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

**A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

(read responsively)

Leader: Now, after we confess, we hear the good news proclaimed: God hears our words, God sees our changed hearts, God's steadfast love is poured out upon us!

**People: We will trust in God, in whom our salvation rests. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.**

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING**

Mark 1:14-20

**MIDDLE SONG:** “Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore”

#347

**AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

(read together)

We believe in God, creator of all things, ruler of all that is and all that is to come. God is transforming the world into the place of God's justice and mercy.

We follow Jesus, who taught and healed, who died and rose, revealing God's abundant grace. He sent disciples out into the world to heal, to proclaim the good news of God's grace, and to participate in the Reign of God in all that we do. He reigns in love over all Creation, and holds all accountable to their faithfulness to God's rule of grace. We rely upon the unfailing grace of God, the presence of the Holy Spirit, the community of the church as the Body of Christ, the unity of all believers, the power of forgiveness, the reality of resurrection and the alluring blessing of eternal life.

Therefore we devote ourselves to lives of daily prayer, study, service and reflection, following Jesus as our Master, for the sake of the transformation of the world by the grace of God. Amen.

**GLORIA PATRI**

#734

**FOCUS SCRIPTURE**

Jonah 3:1-5, 10  
read from the *Common English Bible*

**MESSAGE:** “Propheticus Reluctantitis”

Pastor Burnett

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**OFFERING**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

Words #44

**\*DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

**CLOSING SONG:** “Dear Lord and Father of Mankind”

#470

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

The Call to Worship (adapted) is from *Bread for the Journey-Resources for Worship* edited by Ruth C. Duck. The Opening Prayer (adapted) is from *Touch Holiness-Resources for Worship* edited by Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi. The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, Words of Assurance, and Offering Prayer of Dedication are from *Lectionary Liturgies by Thom M. Shuman*. The Affirmation of Faith is written by Steve Garnass-Holmes.

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Organist: Liz Reynolds  
Lector: David Burrow  
Worship Leader: Pastor Burnett  
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January Radio Sponsor: Marilyn Deal

Birthdays: 1-24 Janice Morey, 1-26 Chuck West

This Thursday, the 25<sup>th</sup>, Evangelism and Outreach will meet at 10 am.

Annual Reports and Newsletter articles are due by the 28<sup>th</sup> of this month.

The Week of Prayer will be held starting on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, 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”**

315 S. Moore Street – Algona, IA 50511

515-295-2845