

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
First Sunday in Lent
February 18, 2018

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE FIRST READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Psalm 25:1-10
read from the *Common English Bible*

OPENING SONG: “Come, Thou Almighty King” #148

SHARING JESUS' PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

Leader: Here, at the outer limits of Lent, we are called to walk:

People: to the paper-thin edges which cut us to the soul; to the workplaces which weary us; to the people who confuse us; to the faith which threatens us.

Leader: Here, at the corner of Steadfast Love and Faithfulness, we are called to wait:

People: when our clenched stomachs awaken us; in the moments of unbearable sorrow; with the angels who would carry us.

Leader: Here, where time is fulfilled, where God's realm is as near to us as our neighbor,

People: we begin Lent: with the Beloved, whose tears wash away our fears, with the God who will not let go of our hands.

OPENING PRAYER (read together)

As in days of old, Creator God, we come to look for your signs of covenant promises. Like the rainbow days of Noah, we see and know your signs and hear your voice again, directing us to places of preparation and transformation in our lives and in our world. Thank you God, for your covenant signs in this season of Lent. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (read together)

Forgive, God, the silly sins of childhood, the exuberant sins of adolescence, the faded sins of aging; forgive the sins we shout in the streets, the sins we whisper to ourselves; forgive the sins we didn't give a second thought to, the sins we plot in the middle of the night; forgive the flood of sins which threaten us, the wilderness of sin which we offer to others, the sin which seeks to imprison us.

Forgive us, Good and Gentle God, forgive us and have mercy on us, so we might walk the path of faithfulness with Jesus, to Jerusalem and beyond, so we might know your steadfast love in our lives. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

Leader : What can sustain us in the days to come, what will nourish us on our Lenten journey?

Look, here is all the food we need: God's Love, God's Word, God's Hope.

People: Through the wilderness and into the kingdom of life, we are given daily bread for every day of the journey. Thanks be to God! Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Mark 1:9-15

MIDDLE SONG: “Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days” #252

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (read together)

We believe in God, who creates us, who sustains us each moment, who is our life and our breath.

We follow Christ, who showed us God. He received and shared God's grace. He trusted God in everything. He let go of things so that he might cling to Life. He let go of life, so that he might hold on to Love. He gave of himself, even his very life, for the sake of the healing of the world. Though he was crucified, God gave him life again; and he rose and is still among us in a new way.

We live by the Holy Spirit, which alone gives us life.

We rejoice in the church, the Body of Christ, and in the oneness of all life, the gift of forgiveness, the reality of resurrection, and the mystery of eternal life.

By the power of that Holy Spirit, and in the name of Christ, we devote ourselves to give generously of all that we receive, for the sake of the healing of the world, and the eternal glory of God. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI #734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE Genesis 9:8-17
read from the *Common English Bible*

MESSAGE: "Covenant Signs" Pastor Burtnett

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY Words #44

*DEDICATION OF OFFERING

CLOSING SONG "O Love That Will Not Let Me Go" #446

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship (adapted), Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. *Worship Ways- Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Opening Prayer *Worship Ways- Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Prayer of Dedication is from *The Abingdon Worship Annual-2018* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu. The Affirmation of Faith is by Steve Garnas-Holmes.

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Organist: Liz Reynolds
Lector: David Burrow
Worship Leader: Pastor Burtnett
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February Radio Sponsor: John and Helen Scuffham

Birthdays: 2-18 Karen Dearchs, 2-20 Kris Schlievert

Monday- 11:00am Exceptional Opportunities
Wednesday- 7:00pm. Board Meeting
Thursday – 10am. Clergy Cluster, Humboldt
Next Sunday, February 25 at 1:30 - Organ Concert by Ryan Mueller

The radio sign-up sheet needs more sponsors. Please consider taking a month.

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