

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Third Sunday after Epiphany
March 4, 2018

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 19
read from the *Common English Bible*

***OPENING SONG:** “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” #48

SHARING JESUS’ PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

One: The morning stars profess God's glory:

Many: the waking birds harmonize a refrain of grace.

One: The sun warms us with God's hope, the night sky whispers peace to our sleepy souls:

Many: creation's voice echoes continually in our hearts, reminding us of God's steadfast love.

One: Our wisdom is shattered by God's absurd love; God's vulnerability strengthens our feeble faith:

Many: God's words place joy in our hearts; we follow them to peace and hope as we gather to worship.

OPENING PRAYER (read together)

We acknowledge your presence here this morning, God. We gather in the name of Jesus, who established the church, who shows us you as no one has ever been able to before or since, who has come into our lives as Savior, Lord, Redeemer, and friend, who transforms each one who comes to you. Do your transforming work among us today. May your message be the power unto salvation, as we gather in Jesus’ name. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (read together)

We have come to your temple, Loving God, because this is your place, not ours. We confess that we sometimes forget whose house this is. We forget that all the world belongs

to you as we scramble for all we can claim for ourselves. Our actions deny your love, which is at the heart of your perfect law. Our minds have justified the bending and breaking of your law to suit current trends and feelings. We cry out for forgiveness and the opportunity for a fresh start. Clear us of hidden faults and redeem us from those we recognize and confess. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

One: When brokenhearted prayers replace piety, when we seek wholeness through the One broken for us, then we remember we are saved by God's powerful love.

Many: We are healed, to bring healing to our world; we are strengthened in faith, to become spent for others; we are set free from our bondage to sin, so we may become servants of Christ. Thanks be to God. Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

***MIDDLE SONG:** “In the Cross of Christ I Glory” #264

***AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (read together) inside back cover of hymnal

GLORIA PATRI #734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE John 2:13-22
read from *The Message*

MESSAGE: “Business as Usual” Pastor Burtnett

GATHERING AT JESUS’ TABLE

Invitation, Communion Prayer, Words of Institution, Prayer of Consecration, Lord’s Prayer, Sharing the Bread and Cup

One: With the faithful in every place and time, we praise with joy your holy name.

Many: Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Eternal God, you have called us from east and west and north and south to feast at the table of Jesus Christ. We thank you for Christ’s presence and for the spiritual food of this bread and cup. By the power of your Holy Spirit, keep us faithful to your will, that whether gathered or scattered we may be the servant church of the servant Christ in whose name we rejoice to pray. Amen.

OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY**

***DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

***CLOSING SONG:** "God of Grace and God of Glory" #569

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship (adapted), Call to Confession, Words of Assurance, and Prayer of Dedication (adapted) are from *Lectioary Liturgies by Thom M. Shuman*. The Opening Prayer is from *Invocations and Benedictions for the Revised Common Lectioary* by John M. Drescher. The Prayer of Confession is from *Led By Love-Worship Resources for Year B* by Lavon Bayler. The Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving is adapted from the *United Church of Christ Book of Worship*.

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Organist: Liz Reynolds
Lector: David Burrow
Worship Leader: Pastor Burtnett
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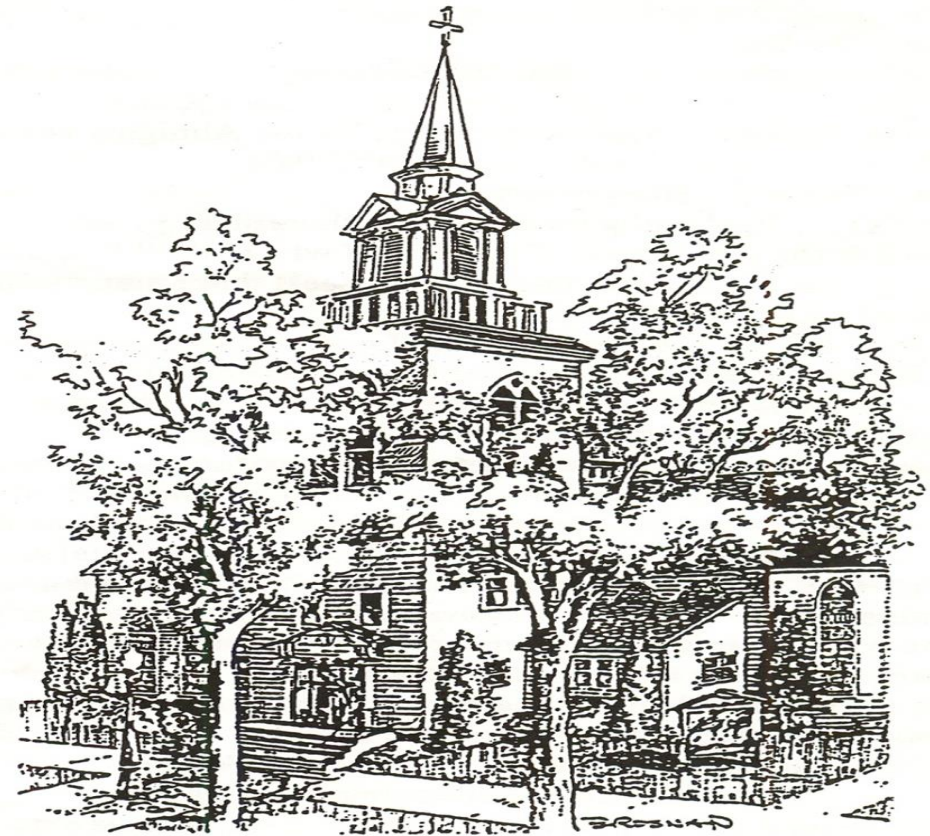
February Radio Sponsor: Ginny Buchanan

Birthdays: 3-15 Geoff Buchanan

Today -- 9:00am. Seekers
10:00am Worship
10:15 am Children's Sunday School
Fellowship coffee and cookies
Monday- 11:00am Exceptional Opportunities
Wednesday - 7pm. Adult Discussion Group at Chuck West's
Thursday - 4pm. PPR Committee
Saturday -Turn clocks ahead before you go to bed. Daylight Saving begins.
Sunday -- 9:00am. Seekers
10:00am Worship – One Great Hour of Sharing Offering
10:15 am Children's Sunday School
Fellowship coffee and cookies
Worship and Music Team following worship
5 pm. Strengthening Families meal at 1st Presbyterian Church

It is time to order Easter Lilies. The cost is \$8. If you would like one, please let the church office know and how you would like it listed in the bulletin insert. Order deadline is March 16th.
The Kossuth County CARE Team will be hosting a Quilt Show on Saturday, March 24.

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



"Where No One Is A Stranger"

315 S. Moore Street – Algona, IA 50511

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