

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
Algona, Iowa  
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany  
January 28, 2018

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

**THE FIRST READING FROM SCRIPTURE**

Isaiah 25:1-9  
read from the *Common English Bible*

**OPENING SONG:** “Great God as We Are Gathering” #604

**SHARING JESUS’ PEACE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (read responsively)

Leader: This is God’s world! To us is given a vision of nations, cultures, lands and people, joined together in love.

**People: Praise be to God, the Creator, in whose image we are created.**

Leader: We come to celebrate and renew that vision, opening ourselves to the One who is its source and living fire.

**People: We affirm in Jesus that we can be, and are, one world and one family, working together to manifest God’s rule in the lives of all people!**

**OPENING PRAYER** (read together)

God of mystery and might, when your presence overwhelmed your people, you sent your prophets teachers, and guides to call them back to life; when we wandered in the shadows, you sent your Son, Jesus, to open our eyes, that we might see your ways anew. Open our hearts and minds this day, that we might understand your holy mysteries and proclaim your teachings for all to hear. Amen.

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

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (read together)

We come on this holy day, God, to speak of how we live. Politicians, celebrities, talk show folks have become our so-called gods. Our choices often cause those around us to trip over our anger and slip on our pride. The words we speak to others show how we really want nothing to do with you.

Forgive us, Holy God, and have mercy on us. May we silence our fears, so words of hope may be spoken. May we give thanks not only with our hearts but with the grace we can share with others. May justice and peace be the tools we use as we serve beside Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE** (read responsively)

Leader: We know who God is – the One who comes to love us, to forgive us, and to save us.

**People: Thanks be to God. We will spread this good news, and share this grace and hope, with everyone we meet. Amen.**

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING** Luke 12:13-21

**MIDDLE SONG:** “Christ Be My Leader” #453

**AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (read together)

**We believe in God, who is love, whose love is manifest in all Creation, in our lives, and in all people.**

**We follow Christ, who embodied God's love. In his life and ministry, his death and resurrection, and his granting to us of his Spirit, he filled us with that love as well.**

**We live by the Spirit, the presence of God's love in us. In that love, we participate in the Church, Body of Christ, in loving God by loving our neighbors through our prayers, our presence, our gifts and our service.**

**Love is our faith, and it is a gift from God. We thank God, and ask God's blessings, that we may love in the name of Christ and the power of the Spirit, to God's glory. Amen.**

**GLORIA PATRI** #734

**FOCUS SCRIPTURE** Philippians 2:1-4  
read from the *The Message*

**MESSAGE:** “Red Green Gets It!” Pastor Burnett

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

**OFFERING**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

Words #44

**\*DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

**CLOSING SONG:** "Filled with the Spirit's Power"

# 331

**\*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) and Offering Prayer of Dedication are from *The Abingdon Worship Annual-2018* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B.J. Beu.. The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, and Words of Assurance 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 Burtnett

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January Radio Sponsor: Marilyn Deal

Birthdays: 2-1 Carol Kenyon

Next Sunday will be the annual meeting and potluck after church.

**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