

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Second Sunday in Lent
February 25, 2018

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE FIRST READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Psalm 22:22-31
read from the *Common English Bible*

OPENING SONG: "Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven" #82

SHARING JESUS' PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

Leader: Lent calls us to journey, this and every day, following Jesus wherever he leads us.

People: Lent calls us to journey: to the place where God covenants with us, to receive the new names we are given.

Leader: Lent calls us to worship together, to tell future generations the good news.

People: Lent calls us to practice justice, to bring God's hope to all people.

Leader: Lent calls us to faithful living, to trust the One who gives us life.

People: Lent calls each of us to take up our cross, to trust the One who bears it with us.

Leader: Lent calls us to journey with God.

People: Let us worship God, who walks with us, this and every day.

OPENING PRAYER (read together)

Spirit of the ages, as you called Abram and Sarai, renaming them according to your purposes, call to us this day. Open our ears to the sound of your voice, that we may respond to your call and pick up our cross, and follow you. Name us anew this day, and raise us to newness of life, that we may be children of your promise, people of your covenant, and disciples of your grace. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (read together)

God of Sarah and Abraham, in this holy place, we know how weak is our discipleship. We can spend hours at the computer, but only give you fleeting moments of our time. We can talk endlessly on our cell phones, but fall silent when it comes to sharing our fears, our worries, our hopes with you. We seek quick fixes for our problems, rather than seeking your vision and future for our lives.

God of Peter, Paul, and the psalmist, forgive us: for our lack of trust; for our faithless living; for our closing our ears to the call of Jesus. Forgive us, so we may lay aside all that keeps us from you, so we may take up the life you offer to us, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

Leader: This is the good news: God does not go back on the promises made so long ago. God does not reject us, God redeems us. God does not withhold love, God pours it into our barren lives.

People: Forgiven of our sins, filled with hope, living in relationship with God and one another - we are a new people. Thanks be to God. Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Mark 8:31-38

MIDDLE SONG: "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" #255

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (read together)

We are God's work of art—each one of us a precious gem, a marvelous melody, a potter's delight. We are God's handiwork—woven together in love, shaped with infinite compassion, painted with incredible beauty.

We are the church of Jesus Christ—diverse in human qualities, but united in our call to love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

We are the Body of Christ—living in his truth, sharing his peace, carrying his hope, embodying his love, throughout the world he loved so much.

We are here to be reminded once more who we are, whose we are and what our lives are about. We are here to be uplifted, renewed and empowered to live out the miracle of who we are, by the power of God working in and among us. We open ourselves to God, who makes all things new. Amen

GLORIA PATRI #734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
read from the *Common English Bible*

MESSAGE: "What's In a Name?" Pastor Burtnett

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY** Words #44

***DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

CLOSING SONG "The Summons" #350

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship, Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Opening Prayer and Prayer of Dedication (adapted) are from *The Abingdon Worship Annual-2018* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu. The Affirmation of Faith is by Rev. David Inglis.

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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: 2-28 Charlie Hines, 3-1 Scott Buchanan, 3-2 Christine Remy

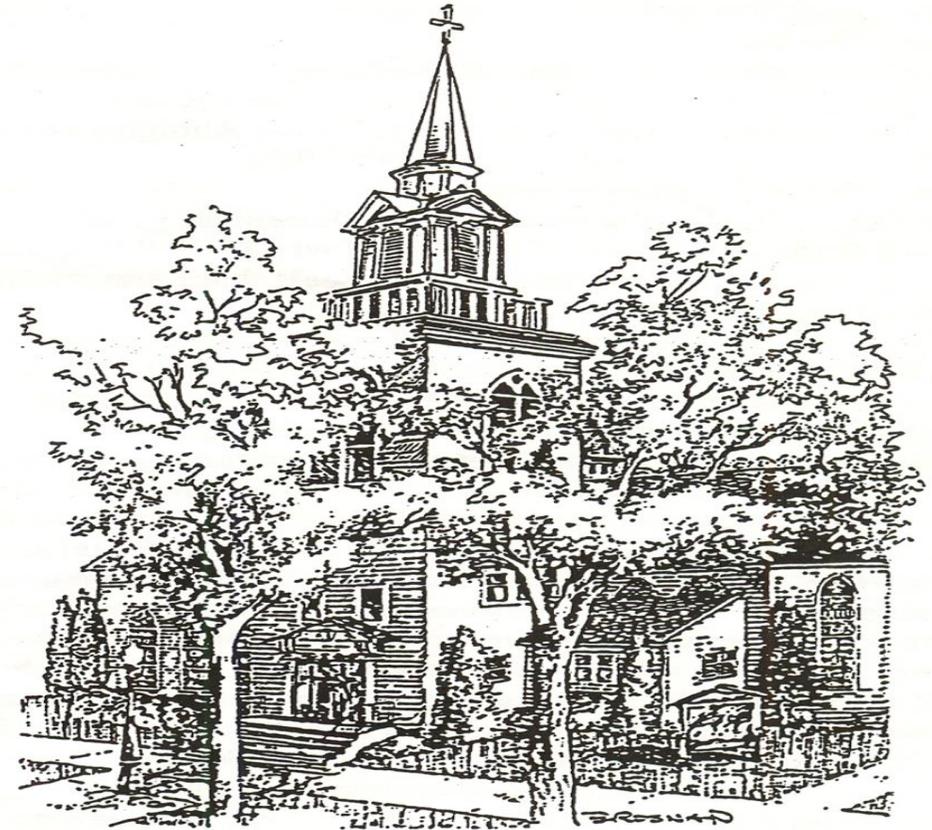
Today - 9:00 am. Seekers
10:00 am. Worship
10:15 am. Children's Sunday School
1:30 pm. Organ Concert

Monday- 11:00am Exceptional Opportunities
Tuesday – Pastor at Perky Parrott in the morning
Friday- 1:30 pm. World Day of Prayer at St. Cecelias
Saturday – Committee on Ministry at Primghar
Next Sunday- Food Pantry Sunday
9:00 am. Seekers
10:00 am. Worship with Communion
10:15 am. Children's Sunday School

The radio sign-up sponsors are needed for September, October, and November.

Our Daily Bread for March, April, and May are available.

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



"Where No One Is A Stranger"

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