

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 11, 2018

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 From *Common English Bible*

OPENING SONG: “We Have Come to Join in Worship” #647

SHARING JESUS’ PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

One: In this place, the community of faith is reminded of the promise:

Many: God's love endures forever!

One: In spite of our impatient grumbling, despite our attraction to the shadows:

Many: Christ's light shines in us!

One: When we think our hands are empty, when we have no music in our souls:

Many: the Spirit fills us with glad songs, and creates us for good works!

All: Let's celebrate our God, who loves us and lifts us up, even when we're not so lovable.

OPENING PRAYER (read together)

You have gathered us from many places, God. You have redeemed us as your people.

When we've cried to you in the midst of our troubles, you have come to save us. You

have delivered us from destruction. You have been rich in compassion for us.

We have come here to give thanks to you; for you are good, your steadfast love endures

forever. Move among us by your Spirit this morning, that we may worship you

acceptably. In the strong name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (read together)

God of poisonous snakes and deadly crosses, your ways can be terrible to behold. When we complain about what we lack, rather than your sustaining gifts, forgive us. When we see only the bad in our lives, and fail to see the good, heal our vision. When we act as disobedient children, and turn away from your light, save us with your unfailing grace. In Christ's holy name, we pray. Amen

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

One: God sent the Human One into the world, not to condemn it, but to save it.

Many: The One who brings us light saves us from our destructive ways, and leads us into life! Thanks be to God!

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING John 3:14-21

MIDDLE SONG: “What Wondrous Love Is This” #257

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (read together)

We believe that our lives are held within the encircling love of God, who knows our names and recognizes our deepest needs.

We believe that Christ is the divine Child of the living God, and that his grace is like living waters that can never be exhausted.

We believe in the birthing, renewing, enabling Spirit of God who yearns over our welfare as a mother yearns for her child.

We believe that God is in the arid desert as well as in green pastures, and that hard times and disciplines can also be loving gifts.

We believe that our journey has a purpose and a destination, and that our path leads to a human glory we cannot yet imagine.

We believe that in the church we are fellow pilgrims on the road, and that we are called to love one another as God loves us.

This is our faith and we are humbled to profess in Jesus the Christ. Amen

GLORIA PATRI #734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE Numbers 21:4-9 from *The Message*

MESSAGE: “Goodness, Snakes!” Pastor Burtnett

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY**

Words #44

***DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

CLOSING SONG

“Lift High the Cross”

#287

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship (adapted) and Call to Confession (adapted) are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Opening Prayer (adapted) is from *Invocations and Benedictions for the Revised Common Lectionary* by John M. Drescher. The Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance (adapted) are from *The Abingdon Worship Annual – 2018* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu. The Offering Prayer of Dedication is adapted from the *One Great Hour of Sharing Worship Resource*. The Order of Saint Columba.

=====
Organist: Liz Reynolds
Lector: David Burrow
Worship Leader: Pastor Burnett
=====

March Radio Sponsor: Ginny Buchanan

Birthdays: 3-15 - Geoff Buchanan

Today - 9:00 am. Seekers
10:00 am. Worship – One Great Hour of Sharing Offering
10:15 am. Children’s Sunday School
Music and Worship Team Meeting following worship
5 pm Strengthening the Family meal at 1st Presbyterian Church, meet at 4-4:30pm

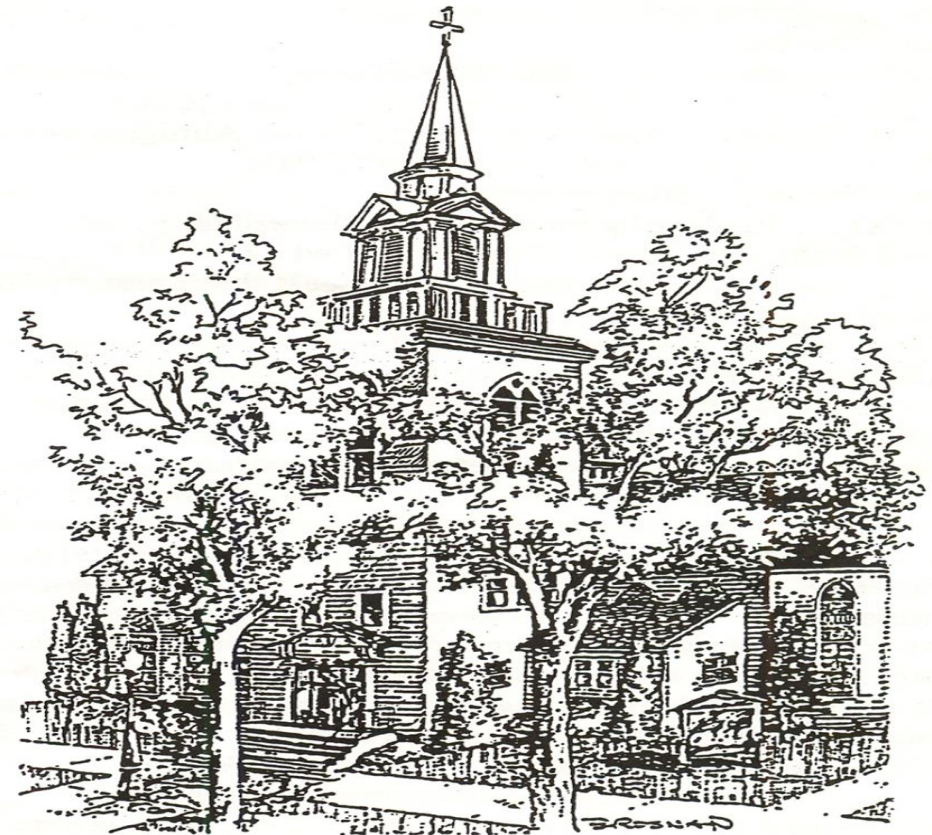
Monday- 11:00am Exceptional Opportunities
Tuesday – Pastor at Perky Parrott in the morning
1pm. DAR in Fellowship Hall
Wednesday – 5:30 Fellowship
Thursday – 8:30 am. Ministerial at St. Cecelia’s
2:30 pm. Women’s Fellowship

Friday - Deadline for ordering Easter Lilies
Next Sunday- 9:00 am. Seekers
10:00 am. Worship
10:15 am. Children’s Sunday School

Easter Lilies may be ordered through the Church office until March 16. The cost is \$8.

The rose on the Alter today is in honor of Samuel John Grindberg, born March 9, 2018 and weighing 9 pound, 9 ounces. Samuel is welcomed by his parents Christian and Ashley, big sister Greta and big brother Jack. Congratulations to the Grindbergs!

**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