

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Third Sunday after Epiphany
January 27, 2019

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 19

from *The Message*

*OPENING SONG: “Let All Things Now Living”

#22

SHARING JESUS’ PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: This day is holy to our Wise God!

Many: We gather to listen for God’s word, to discern God’s will, to worship with God’s people.

One: This day is holy to our Joyful God!

Many: We are members of Christ’s body, Christ’s family, Christ’s church.

One: This day is holy to our Powerful God!

Many: The Spirit of God is upon us, and we have been anointed to bring good news to all.

One: This day is holy to our Sweet God!

Many: May the words in our mouths and the thoughts in our hearts delight you, God.

All: Let’s worship our Holy God!

OPENING PRAYER

(read together)

You gather us from our separate lives, Great God, to hear your word and respond to your revealing. You have appointed us for the work of your church. We seek your guidance, your wisdom, your way. Help us to perceive and understand your law, and then to follow you faithfully, as your people. Bind us together with you in worship, and transform us from distinct persons into the Body of Christ, alive with your Spirit in this place. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(read together)

Do we make you laugh or weep, Gracious God? We sing that we are one in your Spirit, but cannot tolerate those who disagree with us. We talk of being one Body, but fight over music or Bible versions or carpet colors. We affirm the giftedness of each person, but we heap honor on just a special few.

Forgive us, Creative God, that we dismember your Body so easily. May the words of our mouths speak peace to the brokenness in our world; may the hopes of our hearts bring wonder to those in despair; and may our love embrace all who are around us, even as we have been welcomed by your grace in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

One: Forgiven, we are filled by God's Spirit, commissioned to be Christ's hope, Christ's people for the world.

Many: Anointed, we can care for one another, weep with one another, serve one another, and live with one another. Thanks be to God. Amen. Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

*MIDDLE SONG: “O God in Whom All Life Begins” #388 (sung to tune on page #191)

*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 Luke 4:14-21

from *The Message*

MESSAGE: “Chosen”

Pastor Burtnett

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY**

Words #44

***DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

***CLOSING SONG** “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

#96

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship (adapted), Opening Prayer, and Offering Prayer of Dedication are from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Schuman. The Affirmation of Faith is written by Rev. David Inglis

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Organist: Liz Reynolds

Lector: David Burrow

Worship Leader: Pastor Burtnett

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January Radio Sponsor: Scott and Sandy Harmes Buchanan

Birthdays: 2-1 Carol Kenyonj

The annual meeting and potluck will be held after church today. All are welcome.

Newsletter articles and meeting dates for February and March are due into the office by the 29th of this month. Share pictures and stories that might inspire, humor, or inform our readers.

The sign-up sheet for the radio broadcasts is posted in the parlor.

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



“Where No One Is A Stranger”

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