

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

February 3, 2019

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Jeremiah 1:4-10 from the *Common English Bible*

***OPENING SONG:** “How Firm a Foundation” #411

SHARING JESUS’ PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

One: We have come to worship God, the living God,

Many: Who calls prophets and teachers to bear witness.

One: We have come to praise God, the almighty God,

Many: Who answers the forces of hatred and hurt with the power of grace.

One: We have come to worship God, all-gracious God,

Many: Who chooses even you and me, to receive and carry the Word of life and hope.

Everyone: All glory to God! Let’s worship!

OPENING PRAYER (read together)

God of the prophets, is it possible that you, who spoke to Jeremiah and Jesus, will speak to us? We may not be ready to believe it. We may not be ready to receive you. But we have gathered in your name and we pray: Come, Holy One! Fill us with the story of your people; fill us with your loving Word. Take us as we are, and make us wholly yours. In Jesus’ name: Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (read together)

Ah, Lord God, we do not know how to speak words of hope, because we listen to the purveyors of fear. We do not know how to be loving because our role models are ridicule and anger. We do not know how to be faithful to you, because at an early age, we learned to trust the promises of all the false prophets who entice us with their simple thoughts.

But you know how to forgive, God of kindness, so we pray you would pour out your mercy upon us. May faith abide in us, so we may serve others even as you have served us; may hope abide in us, so we may surround the broken with your compassion and grace; may love abide in us, not only in these moments of brokenness, but in every moment of our life with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who abides in us. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

One: The good news is that, in our God, we find that safe place for our lives. In God’s forgiveness, we are offered the healing we need.

Many: In God’s acceptance, we discover the love in which we may abide in every moment of our lives. Thanks be to God! Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Luke 4:21-30

***MIDDLE SONG:** “Lord, Speak to Me” #593

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

GLORIA PATRI #734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 from the *Common English Bible*

MESSAGE: “A More Excellent Way” Pastor Burtnett

GATHERING AT JESUS’ TABLE

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

SANCTUS

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

We thank you, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all of Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY**

***DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

***CLOSING SONG:** "The Gift of Love" #397

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship (adapted), Opening Prayer, and Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) 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 our United Church of Christ Statement of Faith. The Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving is from the *Book of Worship-United Church of Christ*.

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Organist: Ellen Gatton
Lector: David Burrow
Worship Leader: Pastor Chris Burttnet

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February Radio Sponsor: Chris and Pam Burttnet

Birthdays: 2-4 Laurel Walker, 2-7 Josephine Reynolds



**THEIR EYES WERE OPENED, AND THEY
RECOGNIZED THE RISEN CHRIST IN THE
BREAKING OF THE BREAD.**