

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Seventh Sunday after Epiphany
February 24, 2019

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 from the *Common English Bible*

***OPENING SONG:** “Praise to the Lord, The Almighty” #71

SHARING JESUS' PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: Come near to one another and to our God.

Many: This is a time for meeting and greeting.

One: This is a place where God will be revealed to us.

Many: God is here and will be known by us.

One: Come and learn the ways of life.

Many: We have come to follow Jesus.

One: Come to receive life in all its abundance.

Many: We come to worship the One who provides for us and has a purpose for us.

OPENING PRAYER

(read together)

God, you are the inexhaustible source of love and life, be with us in our time of worship as we seek the love it takes to walk in the ways of Jesus. Help us love our enemies and bless those who wrong us, for we can't do so alone. Teach us the joy of treating others with all the same respect and goodness with which we hope to be treated. May our every word and deed make known that we are your beloved children and vessels of your love. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(read together)

In this season of light, Revealing God, we find ourselves wandering the shadows of the world. In this time when we focus on Jesus' ministry of healing, we hold tight to all those emotions – hatred, fear, worry – which continue to damage us. In these days when we are invited to listen to Jesus' teachings, we confess it is easier to hear the seductive words of sin.

Forgive us, Resurrecting God, for trusting in promises which are short-lived, rather than in your Word which endures forever. You have sent Jesus before us so that, as we follow him, we might travel from that far country of fear and doubt to that better country of resurrection life. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

One: Take delight in the good news, dear friends. Salvation is from our God, who restores us to new life.

Many: God chooses to be gracious; God longs to give us our heart's desires; God provides healing and hope to all. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 45: 3-11, 15

***MIDDLE SONG:** “Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive” #382 (sung to tune of hymn #420)

*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 Luke 6:27-38

from *The Message*

MESSAGE: "More Than a Feeling?"

Pastor Burtnett

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY

Words #44

*DEDICATION OF OFFERING

*CLOSING SONG "Help Us Accept Each Other"

#596 (sung to tune of hymn #544)

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship is adapted from *Gathered by Love-Worship Resources for Year C* by Lavon Bayler and *The Abingdon Worship Annual-2019* 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. Schuman. The Opening Prayer and Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted are from *The Abingdon Worship Annual-2019* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu. The Affirmation of Faith is by Steve Garnaas-Holmes.

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Organist: Liz Reynolds

Lector: David Burrow

Worship Leader: Pastor Burtnett

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February Radio Sponsor: Chris and Pam Burtnett

Birthdays: 2-28 Charlie Hines

Tuesday our church will host a 2 pm Coalition meeting.

Wednesday the Adult discussion group meets a7pm.

Friday we will host the World Day of Prayer at 1 pm.

Next Sunday we will have communion and collect for the Food Pantry.

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United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa



"Where No One Is A Stranger"

315 S. Moore Street – Algona, IA 50511

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