

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
Algona, Iowa  
Second Sunday in Lent  
March 17, 2019

## PRELUDE

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING** Psalm 27 from the *Common English Bible*

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

## SHARING JESUS' PEACE

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (read responsively)

One: Today, God comes to us, to gather us in worship:

**Many: to wait in silence for the Word, to sit at the Table of grace.**

One: Tomorrow, the Word of God comes, calling us to go forth to serve:

**Many: to bring hope to those who have none, to love all tossed aside by indifference.**

One: The next day, and the next day, the Holy Spirit will come:

**Many: so we might discover the gift of peace, and offer it to our broken world.**

**OPENING PRAYER** (read together)

God of embracing love, gather us under the wings of your love, even as Jesus longed to gather Jerusalem into the arms of his love. Send your holy Spirit into our worship this morning, that we may be strengthened for the time ahead, as we seek to walk faithfully with Jesus all the way to the cross. Be our light and our salvation, that we may live in your presence and walk in your ways all the days of our lives. Amen.

## TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

## CALL TO CONFESSION

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (read together)

Offered a feast at grace's table, God of the covenant, we choose to gorge ourselves on the empty calories of greed. Invited to live in your house, we move into death's fear-infested boarding house. Though you promise to be with us, we toss you aside, chasing after those who will abandon us at the first chance.

But you will not let the foxes of foolishness devour us, Mothering God, but will gather us under the shelter of your love. You do so in order to give us that peace which heals us, that wonder which surprises us, and that faith which enables us to let go of the present to walk into the covenant of grace made possible through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE** (read responsively)

One: God does not abandon us. Like a border collie, God gathers us up, leading us to that shelter of love and life.

**Many: Today, tomorrow, and the next day, God's grace rests upon us and gives us hope and mercy. Thanks be to God! We are forgiven. Amen.**

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING** Philippians 3:17-4:1

**\*MIDDLE SONG:** "O Jesus, I Have Promised" #458

**\*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (read together)

**We believe in God, Creator of all things, heavenly father and mother, Soul of infinite love, wisdom, and power, ruler of all that is and all that is to come, who is mystery, yet revealed.**

**We follow Christ, God's chosen one, who loved and served humbly, who healed the broken and included the outcast, who chose to suffer rather than harm for the sake of the healing of all Creation, who gave his life for our redemption, and who was raised by God to new life. In his teaching, in his death and resurrection, and in his presence with us in all circumstances, he reveals God to us. He calls us to serve him for the sake of proclaiming God's grace. We trust that he accompanies us and will help, guide, heal, and defend us through all difficulty and suffering.**

**We believe the Holy Spirit sustains us, and guides us and empowers us as servants of God's grace.**

**We live as the body of Christ, in the power of forgiveness and the reality of resurrection, and the light of eternal life. Amen.**

GLORIA PATRI

#734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE Luke 13:31-35

from *The Message*

MESSAGE: "No Time"

Pastor Burtnett

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

\*DOXOLOGY

Words #44

\*DEDICATION OF OFFERING

\*CLOSING SONG "Lord of the Dance"

#118

\*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 Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) are from the *Abingdon Worship Annual* 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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March Radio Sponsor: John and Helen Scuffham

Birthdays: 3/20 Sandy Person, Max Person, 3/21 Rick Remy, 3/23 Helen Scuffham

The Coalition meeting will be here on Wednesday at 2 pm.  
Women's Fellowship will meet and begin tagging items for the upcoming sale on Thursday at 1:30 pm.  
Friday Pastor Burtnett will be in Manson for a 11 am by-laws meeting.  
The Trash, Treasure and Bake Sale is slated for April 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. We need more items for this sale to be a success. Please search your attics, basements or wherever to help us out.

# First Congregational Church United Church of Christ Algona, Iowa



"Where No One Is A Stranger"

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