

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
Algona, Iowa  
Third Sunday in Lent  
March 24, 2019

## PRELUDE

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 63: 1-8 from the *Good News Bible*

\*OPENING SONG: "O, Sing to the Lord" #15

## SHARING JESUS' PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

One: We come, because we seek our God.

Many: Every morning, every day, every evening, every moment, God is with us.

One: We come, because we hunger for Christ.

Many: Jesus will feed us with hope, will replace our emptiness with grace.

One: We come, because we thirst for the Spirit.

Many: Who fills our yearning for peace, who ends the drought of justice.

OPENING PRAYER (read together)

Faithful God, our parched spirits thirst for you. Gathered here for this time of worship, may we witness again your power and glory. Feed us with the food that truly satisfies.

Quench our dry mouths and fill them with your praise. Be known to us here, as we seek you with our whole being. Amen.

## TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

## CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (read together)

The thirsty come, and we offer lead-filled water; the hungry come, and we offer a single can from our overflowing pantries; the lonely come, and we cling to our cliques; the broken come, and we hand them an aspirin; the needy come, but we have wasted everything on stuff we do not need.

Have mercy on us, Steadfast love, and pour your heart into our grace-parched souls. As you have been with us in every moment, may we go to be with all around us. May we listen to the needs and hearts of others, even as you lean down to listen to us in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

One: In every moment, God seeks what is best for us, continually offering us peace, hope, and forgiveness.

Many: We will bless God in every moment, rejoicing with the One who fills us with steadfast love. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Luke 13:1-9

\*MIDDLE SONG: "Amazing Grace" #422

\*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (read together)

We believe in God, creator of all things, ruler of all that is and all that is to come. God is transforming the world into the place of God's justice and mercy.

We follow Jesus, who taught and healed, who died and rose, revealing God's abundant grace. He sent disciples out into the world to heal, to proclaim the good news of your grace, and to participate in the Reign of God in all that we do. He reigns in love over all Creation, and holds all accountable to their faithfulness to God's rule of grace.

We rely upon the unfailing grace of God, the presence of the Holy Spirit, the community of the church as the Body of Christ, the unity of all believers, the power of forgiveness, the reality of resurrection and the alluring blessing of eternal life.

Therefore we devote ourselves to lives of daily prayer, study, service and reflection, following Jesus as our Master, for the sake of the transformation of the world by the grace of God. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI #734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE Luke 13:31-35 from *The Message*

MESSAGE: "Will You Buy It?"

Pastor Burtnett

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**OFFERING**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

Words #44

**\*DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

**\*CLOSING SONG** "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah "

#501

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

The Call to Worship, Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession (adapted), and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Opening Prayer (adapted) 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.

=====

Organist: Liz Reynolds

Lector: David Burrow

Worship Leader: Pastor Burtnett

=====

March Radio Sponsor: John and Helen Scuffham

Birthdays: 3/24 Isaac Hines, 3/26 Gene Vaske, 3/29 Alicia Remy

The Adult discussion group will meet Wednesday, the 27<sup>th</sup>, at 7 pm at Chuck West's.

Next Sunday the One Great Hour of Sharing will be taken. The Mahana board will meet after church and the potluck will be after church.

It's that time to consider ordering lilies for Easter. Please let the office know if you wish to make a memorial lily.

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"**

315 S. Moore Street – Algona, IA 50511

515-295-2845