

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Fifth Sunday in Lent
April 7, 2019

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Philippians 3:4b-14 from the *Common English Bible*

***OPENING SONG:** “To God Be the Glory” #66

SHARING JESUS’ PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

One: We come to this place because we want to know God,

Many: who helps us set aside the past, to walk the path to new life.

One: We come in these moments because we want to know Jesus,

Many: who anoints us with the resurrection, who shares our lives with us.

One: We come with these people because we want to know the Spirit,

Many: who shapes us for life with God, so we many praise God forever.

OPENING PRAYER (read together)

Come to this sanctuary, this house, this home, Holy Jesus, and let us receive you with lavish welcome. You are the Restorer of our fortunes, The Promise of new life- we pour out our praise to you. Fill this room with your Spirit: the sound of wind, the warmth of flame, the scent of perfume, and fill our hearts with your compassion, not just in this time and place, but in all times, and all places, so that as we celebrate the great things you have done for us, we may also embody the love you give to all. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (read together)

Like Judas, God of new things, we like to complain about your generous ways, rather than living in your grace. The poor are always with us, we believe, which justifies our ignoring them. In our memories, we see a perceived golden past, and so close our eyes to the new things you do in our midst. We are so enamored with our achievements that we are not willing to throw them away in order to follow Jesus.

Forgive us, Restoring God, and help us to notice the kingdom springing forth in our midst. By your grace, may our fears turn to faith, our seeds of grief produce a bumper crop of joy, and our tears turn into torrents of tenderness as we journey with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, to Jerusalem. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

One: Making a way through all the foolishness and mistakes of our lives, God leads us into new life where we are restored to grace, to hope, and to peace.

Many: Do we notice what God has done for us, what God is doing in us? This is good news for everyone. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING John 12:1-8

***MIDDLE SONG:** “O, How I Love Jesus” #109

***AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (read together) Back of the Hymnal

GLORIA PATRI #734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE Isaiah 43:16-21 *from the New International Version*

MESSAGE: “Whiners and Prophets” 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

The bread has been broken, the cup has been poured, the meal has been shared. Gracious God, we give thanks for bread for the journey, for you wisdom guiding us along the way. May there be friends to share the road as we dare to dream of creation renewed, and hope in the promise of justice for all. Amen.

OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY**

***DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

***CLOSING SONG:** “This Is the Day of New Beginnings” #355

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship, Call to Confession and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Opening Prayer is from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) is from *The Abingdon Worship Annual* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B.J. Beu. The Prayer of Thanksgiving is from *worshipofferings.blogspot.com*.

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Organist: Liz Reynolds
Lector: David Burrow
Worship Leader: Pastor Chris
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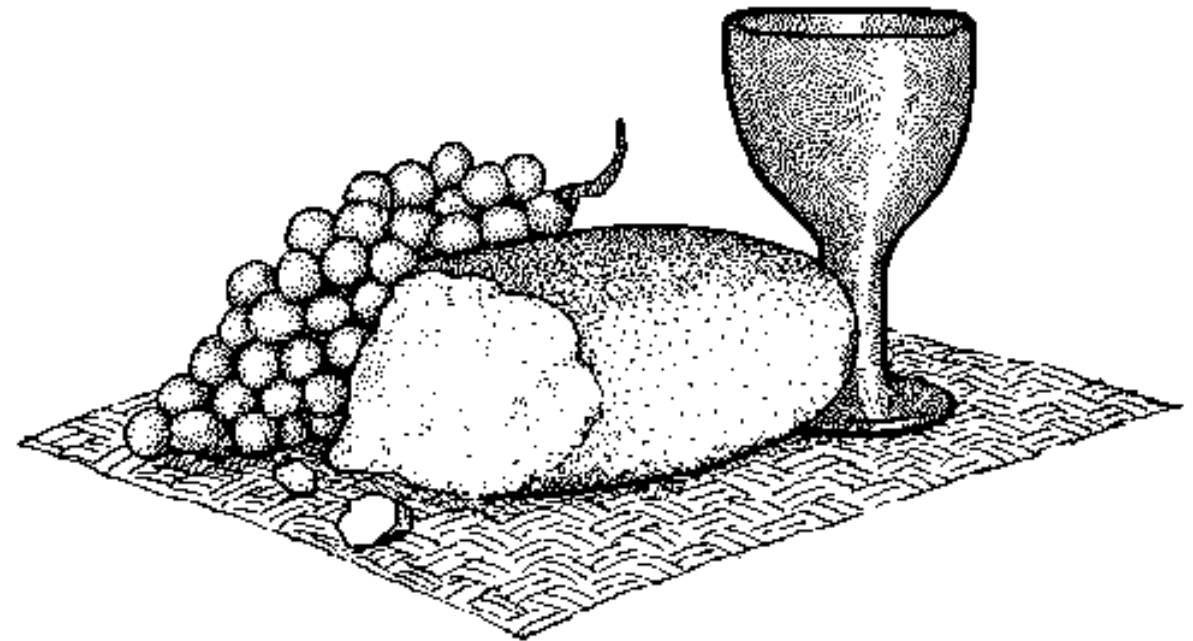
April Radio Sponsor: Don and Becky Marine

Birthdays: 4/7 Becky Marine, 4/12 Nancy Walker, 4/13 John Scuffham

Monday- ExOp here, 4:30 AAUW meeting here

Wednesday- 7 pm board meeting

Sunday- Palm Sunday service followed by a potluck brunch



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