

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Palm Sunday
April 14, 2019

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Luke 19:28-40 from the *Common English Bible*

***OPENING SONG:** “All Glory, Laud, and Honor” #265

SHARING JESUS’ PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: With songs of thanksgiving,

Many: we sing praise to God.

One: With shouts of Hosanna,

Many: we welcome the presence of Christ.

One: With prayers of blessing,

Many: we call out to the Spirit of God.

Everyone: Come, Holy Spirit, come! Let’s worship God!

OPENING PRAYER

(read together)

Blessed One, bless our worship this day. Bless us through the power of your holy name, that we may be faithful disciples and attentive listeners. Strengthen us with your Holy Spirit, that we may be ever wakeful, ever alert – as we worship, as we live, as we follow where you lead. In your blessed name, we pray. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(read together)

We confess, God, that we identify with times of optimism and applause. We favor a religion that makes us feel good. We prefer safety, security and certainty. Then Jesus comes, riding on a donkey, reaching out to outsiders, proclaiming humble obedience as a virtue, challenging powerful people to change their ways. That’s risky business. We do not want to be rejected or face a cross. We’re not even sure we want to be Christians!

Forgive us, Compassionate One. As we begin our journey through Holy Week and beyond, may we choose humility over pride, weakness over strength, compassion over bully, and seek to do whatever we are called to do, without any promise of reward. We pray this in the name of our Teacher, Jesus. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

One: God dares us to think like Jesus, knowing that if we do, we will discover the gifts we can offer, the words of hope we can share, the grace we can use to bless those around us.

Many: God hears our prayers, listens to our hearts, fills us with forgiveness, and walks with us in these moments and in all the ones to come. Thanks be to God for such incredible mercy! Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Psalms 118: 1-2, 19-29

***MIDDLE SONG:** “This Is the Day”

#652 (sing twice)

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

I believe in God the Creator, who made me and all things, who set me on my path in this world.

I believe in God the Savior, who is one with the Creator, who rescued me and all creation from the depredations of our violations against God and creation. This man, Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ, walked a path through this world, taking on human form having been born of a woman through the power of the Holy Spirit. He lived and worked in this world among people just like me. He walked God’s path to death on a cross, and rose from the dead to open our pathway to eternal life.

I believe in God the Holy Spirit, my counselor and guide, who is one with the Creator and the Christ, who through Jesus brings me into communion with all people, past, present and future; who calls me to walk a sacred way of life through this world, caring

for creation and the people I meet on the way, loving them, helping them, welcoming them without prejudice, being God's hands and feet in the world. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI #734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE Philippians 2:5-11 from the *Good News Bible*

MESSAGE: "A Triumphant Attitude" Pastor Burnett

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY Words #44

*DEDICATION OF OFFERING

*CLOSING SONG "Ride On, Ride On in Majesty" #268

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship (adapted), Opening Prayer, and Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) are from *The Abingdon Worship Annual* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu. The Call to Confession and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Prayer of Confession is adapted from *Gathered By Love-Worship Resources for Year C* and *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Affirmation of Faith (adapted) is by Lisa Frenz.

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Organist: Liz Reynolds
Lector: David Burrow
Worship Leader: Pastor Burnett
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April Radio Sponsor: Don and Becky Marine
Birthdays: 4-17 Cooper Heath

The Palm Sunday potluck brunch will follow today's service. All are welcome.
Maunday Thursday service this week will begin at 7 pm with the serving of communion. Next Sunday's Easter service and Communion will begin at 10 am.

**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