

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Fourth Sunday of Easter
May 12, 2019

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Revelation 7:9-17

from the *Good News Bible*

*OPENING SONG: “Come, We That Love the Lord”

#67

SHARING JESUS' PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: We praise Creation's God:

Many: Blessing and Honor; Glory and Power!

One: Let each single voice praise God:

Many: Blessing and Honor; Glory and Power!

One: Let all voices together praise God:

Many: Blessing and Honor; Glory and Power!

One: Let the great multitude of nations praise God:

Many: Blessing and Honor; Glory and Power!

One: With all Creation we praise God:

One: Blessing and Honor; Glory and Power! Let's worship God!

OPENING PRAYER

(read together)

We seek and find you in Creation, God, in the world you have made and the people you have called. Your vulnerable, powerful Lamb is our shepherd and guide, leading us to share the shelter of your abundant life. Let us recognize you here in the beauty of this morning and in its challenge; may the Risen One, your Shepherd-Lamb, lead us to act for your justice and peace: so that all may drink from your springs of the waters of life, and find their tears of sorrow and pain wiped away. In the name of the Risen One we pray. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(read together)

God who shepherds us, you must wonder how long we will continue to live the way we do. We snatch hope out of the grasp of those who need it most. Our acts of kindness are offered only to those we think to be deserving of our generosity. We gather around to watch endless reality shows, while those whose real lives are filled with struggle and loss are ignored.

Yet you refuse to keep forgiveness a mystery, Gracious God, but offer it to us without any hesitation. You gather us in the green pastures of mercy, so we might find hope; you offer us a drink of the living waters so we might become still enough to listen to your heart; you send the Spirit to take us by the hand to lead us on the paths of justice; the goodness and mercy of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, following us all our days as we seek to be faithful in our calling to serve him. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

One: Hear the good news: God will lead us into places of hope; God will give us the waters of life to strengthen us; God will be with us in every moment, in every place of our lives.

Many: Anointed with grace, fed with joy and wonder, we offer blessing and thanksgiving to the One who forgives us now and forever. Thanks be to God. Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 9:36-43

*MIDDLE SONG: “Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

#500

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

God is our Shepherd, providing everything we need; rest in green meadows, direction to quiet streams. God renews our strength, and guides us in ways that bring honor to God's name. Even when we walk through difficult valleys, there is no need to fear, for God is never far away—protecting and comforting, guarding and guiding every step we take. God prepares a feast for us in the presence of our enemies. God welcomes us as friends and lavishes blessings on us. We rest assured that God's goodness and unfailing love will continue to pursue us all the days of our lives, and that after our lives here are over, we will spend eternity in God's presence. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI

#734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

John 10:22-30

read from the *Good News Bible*

MESSAGE: "VRT"

Pastor Burtnett

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY

Words #44

*DEDICATION OF OFFERING

*CLOSING SONG "The Summons"

#350

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship (adapted) and Opening Prayer are from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the Unite Church of Christ*. The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) is from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2019* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu and *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the Unite Church of Christ*. The Affirmation of Faith (adapted) is by Christine Longhurst.

=====

Organist: Liz Reynolds
 Lector: David Burrow
 Worship Leader: Pastor Burtnett

=====

May Radio Sponsor: Ginny Buchanan

Birthdays: 5-13 Jack Grindberg

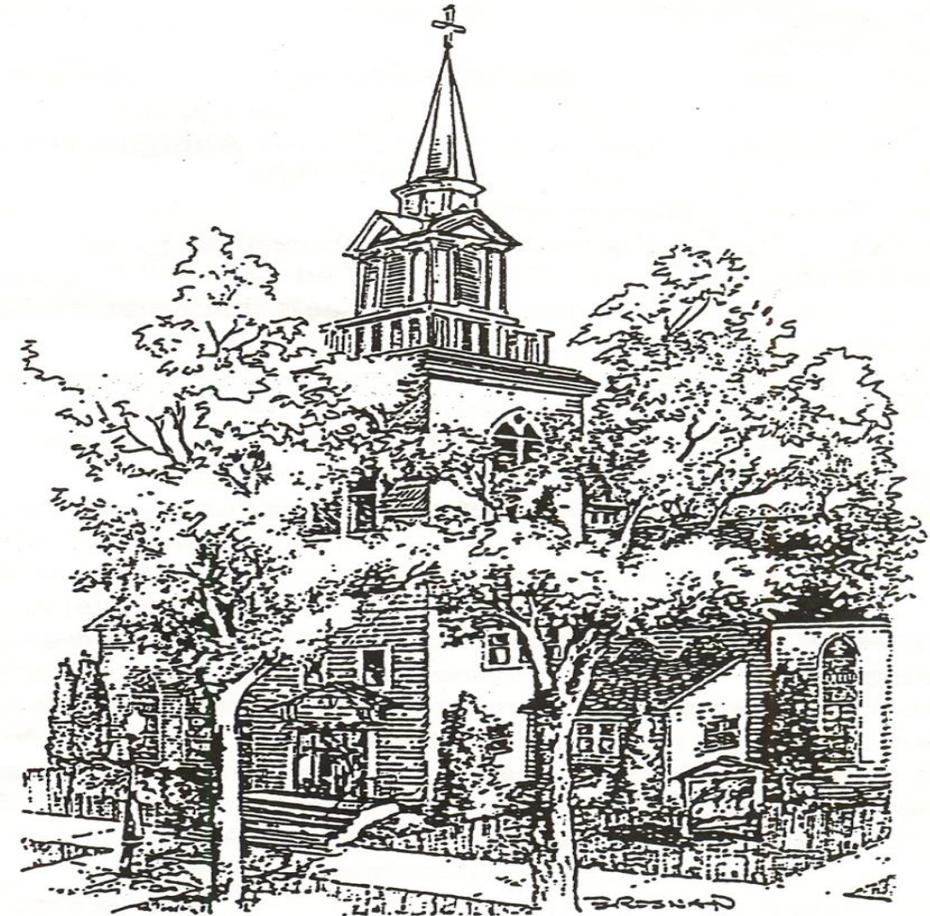
Thursday, the 16th, Women's Fellowship will meet at 1:30 pm.

Next Sunday, the 19th, will be the last day of Sunday school. We will be taking the Strengthen the Church donations. And we will be celebrating the graduation of Carter Bachman during church and having a reception for him in the parlor following the service. Congratulations Carter.

A reminder that the second Trash, Treasure and Bake Sale will take place on May 31st and June 1st. Bakers and volunteers will be needed to make this sale successful. Thanks for the time you give.

The people in our church have been invited to a graduation celebration for Carter Bachman. The open house will be held May 18th from 3 to 7 pm at the Whittemore Community Center. Please RSVP to 515-320-0289.

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