

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 19, 2019

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Revelation 21: 1-6 from the *Common English Bible*

***OPENING SONG:** “Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken ” #598

SHARING JESUS' PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: Gathered as one, welcoming all,

Many: we worship as a community of love.

One: Gathered in love, giving thanks for life,

Many: we come to sing God's praises.

OPENING PRAYER

(read together)

Spirit of life, breathe new life within us. Blow through our worship with your enlivening presence, and rise up in us with new hope. Dwell in our community, in our church, and in our hearts this day, that your love may bind us together and send us forth to serve. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(read together)

Who are we to get in your way, Holy God? We put people into neat, little boxes, but you rip them open, so folks can dance in your joy. We imprison others with our unmet expectations, and you set them free with a Word. We build walls around those we don't know, and you tear them down, so they can run wild in the kingdom.

Who are we to get in your way, Saving Power, especially in the way of your forgiveness offered to all! Give us your vision that sees everyone as equal - forgiven, graced, loved - even as we seek to follow our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

One: We know who God is by the love shown to us in Christ Jesus.

Many: We will show others who we are - and Whose we are - by the love poured out by our lives. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

John 13:31-35

***MIDDLE SONG:** “Help Us Accept Each Other”

#596

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

We believe in God, who is love, whose love is manifest in all Creation, in our lives, and in all people.

We follow Christ, who embodied God's love. In his life and ministry, his death and resurrection, and his granting to us of his Spirit, he filled us with that love as well.

We live by the Spirit, the presence of God's love in us. In that love we participate in the Church, Body of Christ, in loving God by loving our neighbors through our prayers, our presence, our gifts and our service.

Love is our faith, and it is a gift from God. We thank God, and ask God's blessings, that we may love in the name of Christ and the power of the Spirit, to God's glory. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI

#734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Acts 11:1-18

read from the Common English Bible

MESSAGE: “How Many Times?”

Pastor Burtnett

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY**

Words #44

***DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

***CLOSING SONG** "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

#358

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, and Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) are from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2019* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu. The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Affirmation of Faith is by Steve Garnaas-Holmes.

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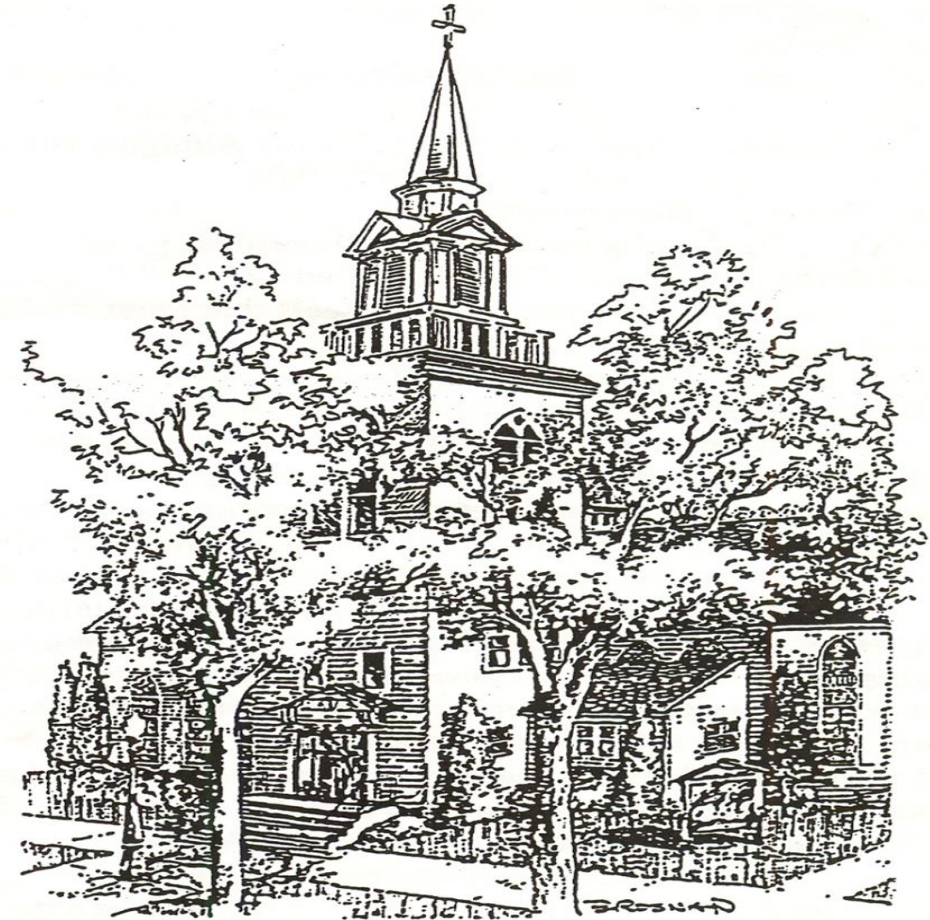
Organist:	Liz Reynolds
Lector:	David Burrow
Worship Leader:	Pastor Burtnett

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May Radio Sponsor: Ginny Buchanan
Birthdays: 5-22 Ginny Buchanan, Mick Schlievert, 5-23 Aaron Burtnett, 5-24 Megan Rochleau, 5-25 Marge Person

Today we will be taking the Strengthen the Church donations.
The potluck will follow today's service. All are invited. Please join us.
Wednesday, the 22nd, the board will meet at 7 pm.
The deadline for the June and July newsletter will be May 28th. Please share any news and pictures you think others would be interested in.
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 June radio broadcast needs a sponsor. All of the remainder of the months are full.
The new Our Daily Bread for June, July and August are in the Fellowship hall entry.

**First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa**



"Where No One Is A Stranger"

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