

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Second Sunday after Epiphany
January 19, 2020

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 read from *The Message*

***OPENING SONG:** "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" #72

SHARING JESUS' PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

One: We wait patiently for our God.

Many: We will sing, we will sing new songs of the One who calls us here.

One: We will not chase after other gods.

Many: We will sing, we will sing new songs of the One in whom we can trust.

One: We will tell of all God has done for us.

Many: We will sing, we will sing new songs of the One whose salvation is for all.

OPENING PRAYER (read together)

Author of creation, Maker of all that is, by your hands the seasons turn and the days grow longer. As sunlight expands irresistibly into dark corners, shed your light into our hearts, and into our world. Renew our spirits, that we may reflect your goodness to all who are alone or discouraged. Renew your Church, Holy Spirit, that we may worship and serve with the joy of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (read together)

You are faithful, Patient God, even as we continue to live in the shadows of life. We could delight in your hopes for us, but choose to do things our way. We could serve the most vulnerable around us, but long to pal around with the powerful. We could share the glad news of deliverance, but prefer to swap stories and gossip.

There is none like you, Redeemer of all your children. You lean over to listen to our prayers, and whisper forgiveness to our souls. You lift us out of the holes we dig for ourselves, and set us on hope's solid ground. You strengthen our weak faith with the life, grace, and love of Jesus Christ, our Lord, our Savior. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

One: Come, dear friends and receive God's grace; see all the God is doing for you; follow Jesus, as he leads you closer to God.

Many: We will sing of God's love for us; We will sing a new song of hope and wonder. Thanks be to God! We are forgiven! Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 40:1-11

***MIDDLE SONG:** "I Love to Tell the Story" #560

***AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (read together)

We are a sign of the new world. We are the sisters, brothers, and siblings, of Jesus.

We believe in God. We believe in the goodness of God, the presence of God in human history, and the nearness of God's love.

We believe in Jesus. We believe that God was and is revealed in human life, that out of human suffering may come rescue and healing, that out of death comes new life.

We believe in the Eternal Spirit, who move's among God's people and invites the whole world into God's reign. We believe the world can change, that peace and wholeness can come, and that the New World can arrive.

We are the people of God. We are a sign of the New World. We are the sisters, brothers, and siblings of Jesus. Amen

GLORIA PATRI #734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE John 1:29-42 read from the *Good News Bible*

MESSAGE: "What Are You Looking For?" Pastor Burtnett

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY**

Words #44

***DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

***CLOSING SONG** “Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart”

#132

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

The Opening Prayer and Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) are from *The Abingdon Worship Annual, 2020* edited by Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu. The Call to Worship, Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession (adapted), and Words of Assurance (adapted) are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Affirmation of Faith is by David Beebe.

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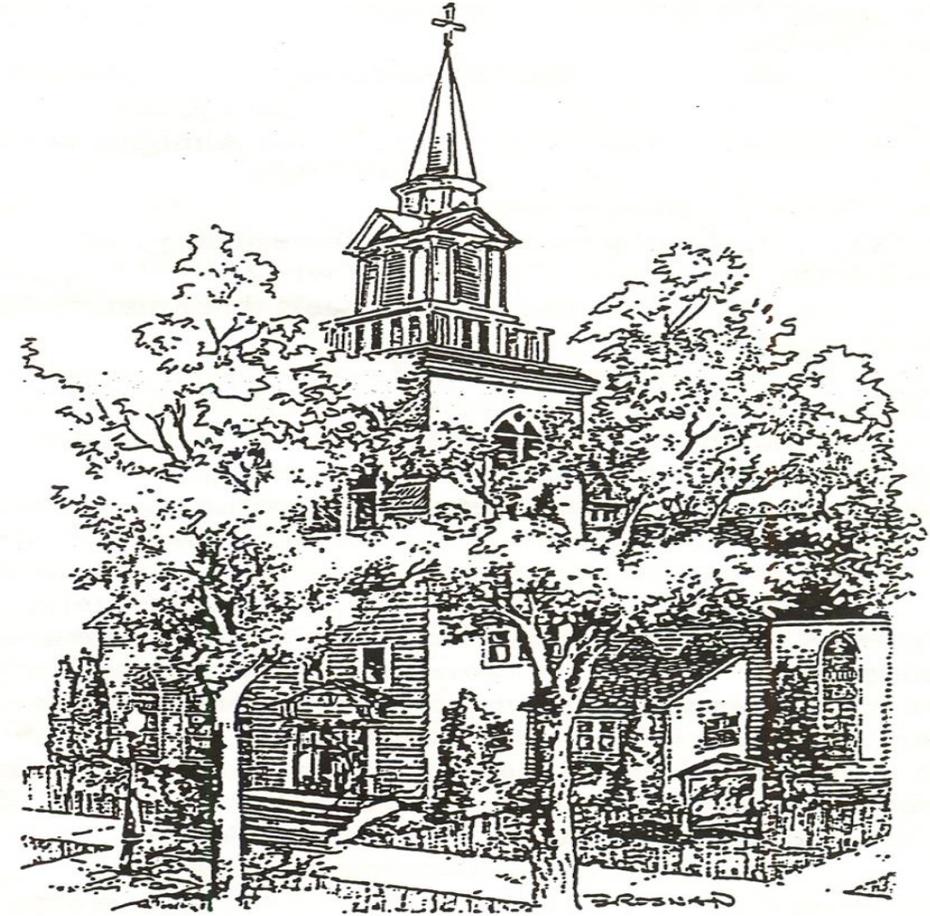
Organist: Liz Reynolds
Lector: David Burrow
Worship Leader: Pastor Burtnett

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January Radio Sponsor: Marilyn Deal
Birthdays: 1-24 Janice Morey

Our cookie supply is extremely low. Please consider baking some cookies to replenish our supply.
The annual meeting and potluck will be held on Sunday the 26th of this month. Please send all annual reports to the office by Friday the 21st. It would be appreciated if all reports are e-mailed to the office.
The week of Christian Unity begins on the 20th of January. We will host the Wednesday meeting. Please consider helping out preparing, serving and cleaning up that day. The Week Ahead will have the schedule for that week.
Newsletter articles and meeting dates for February and March are due into the office by the 31st of this month. Share pictures and stories that might inspire, humor, or inform our readers.

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



“Where No One Is A Stranger”

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