

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Third Sunday after Epiphany
January 26, 2020

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 9:1-4 read from the *Common English Bible*

***OPENING SONG:** “Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies” #91
(sung to the tune of #40 “For the Beauty of the Earth”)

SHARING JESUS’ PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

Leader: God is our light and our salvation.

People: Whom shall we fear?

Leader: God sets us high on a rock, above our enemies.

People: God shelters us in our day of trouble.

Leader: We, who have walked in darkness, have seen a great light?

People: We, who have dwelled in a land of deep darkness, on us, light has shined.

Leader: God is our light and salvation.

People: Whom shall we fear? Let’s worship God!

OPENING PRAYER (read together)

God of radiant Light, shine into our lives, and disperse the darkness that dims our vision: shine into our world and cast out the fears that long have chained us; shine into our worship, that we may be people of your hope and promise. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (read together)

We admit, God our Light, that we do indeed try to tear Christ apart - a piece of him here to support our politics, a part of him to undergird our economic views, the rest of him to bolster our fears of others. We could leave immediately to follow him, but need to wait until we see where he might lead us. We want you to look upon us with favor always, but have no trouble turning our backs on those around us.

Hear us, God our Deliverer, as we speak of our failures! Have mercy on us, we appeal to you, have mercy! May your love become the core of our hearts, may your compassion become the words we speak, may your hope illuminate the ways in which we serve others, even as we seek to follow the One who calls us to new life, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

Leader: God is our help, so why should we be afraid? God keeps us safe, there is nothing to dread! This is good news for all of us.

People: Sheltered in God's gracious heart of mercy and love, we raise shouts of joy: thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 4: 12-23

***MIDDLE SONG:** “Jesus Calls Us o’er the Tumult” #345

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

We trust in God, Spirit of life, Creator of all that is and all that is to come; who surrounds us and fills us; who speaks the Word of life in us; and so we listen.

We listen to Jesus, Revealer of God, our brother and teacher; who lived in prayer and in love. Listening to God’s voice and doing God’s will, he gave his life in love; but God raised him to life that is eternal; and so we follow him.

We follow in the power of the Holy Spirit, God alive in us, for the sake of the healing of the world.

We trust in the power of forgiveness, the reality of resurrection, the gift of the universal Church as the body of Christ, and the mystery of eternal life. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI #734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE Psalm 27:1, 4-9 read from the *Common English Bible*

MESSAGE: "Should I?"

Pastor Burtnett

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY

Words #44

*DEDICATION OF OFFERING

*CLOSING SONG "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

#48

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship (adapted), 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 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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January Radio Sponsor: Marilyn Deal
Birthdays: 1-26 Chuck West, 2-1 Carol Kenyon

The annual meeting and potluck will be held after the service today. 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. Our cookie supply is extremely low. Please consider baking some cookies to replenish our supply.

First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa



"Where No One Is A Stranger"

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