

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
February 16, 2020

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Deuteronomy 30:15-20

***OPENING SONG:** “As a Fire Is Meant for Burning” #551

SHARING JESUS’ PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

Leader: This is the day that God has made!

People: We come rejoicing and giving thanks.

Leader: This is the day God invites us to love and to live.

People: We seek to dwell in God’s love as we turn our hearts toward God.

Leader: This is the day to worship our creator and redeemer.

People: We worship the God of Life.

OPENING PRAYER (read together)

Almighty God, we gather in this space to praise your name. Help us lay aside our worries, our fears, our frustrations, and our anxieties, that we may be free to truly worship you. Through the power of your Spirit, empower us to seek your ways, walk in the footsteps of Jesus, come before you with our whole heart, and live as your faithful servants. We seek your help this day, God, that the world may know your abundant love and your amazing grace. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (read together)

Gracious God, there are so many times when our hearts turn away from you: when we become angry or judgmental; when we speak falsehoods; when we squander your blessings; and when we covet the things that are not ours. Forgive us. Help us speak words of encouragement. Help us follow your ways that we may be your faithful followers. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

Leader: Our loving God has said, “I have set before you today, life and prosperity, death and adversity...Choose life.”

People: We will choose life, and turn our hearts toward God! Thanks be to God! We are forgiven!

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 119:1-8

***MIDDLE SONG:** “Jesus Loves Me” #437

***AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (read together)
back of hymnal

GLORIA PATRI #734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE John 1:1-5, 10-14

MESSAGE: “Following Directions” Karen Dearchs

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY** Words #44

***DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

***CLOSING SONG** “Find Us Faithful” #497

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship (adapted), Opening Prayer (adapted), Prayer of Confession, and Words of Assurance (adapted) are from *The Abingdon Worship Annual, 2020* edited by Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu.

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Organist: Liz Reynolds
Lector: David Burrow
Worship Leader: Karen Dearchs
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February Radio Sponsor: David Burrow in memory of George and Betty Burrow and Margaret Sullivan

Birthdays: 2-17 Pat Beaver, Chauncey Taylor, 2-18 Karen Dearchs, 2-20 Kris Schlievert

First Congregational Church United Church of Christ Algona, Iowa



“Where No One Is A Stranger”

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