

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 29, 2020

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 8:6-11 read from *The Message*

***OPENING SONG:** “Every Time I Feel the Spirit”

#481

SHARING JESUS’ PEACE: The Peace of Christ Be with You

CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

Leader: The prophet asks: Can our soul-weary bones live again?

People: O God, you know!

Leader: We ask: Can we dance again after mourning, loss and grief?

People: O God, you know!

Leader: The gift is sure and unmistakable:

People: God’s breath poured out as new life for weary souls!

Leader: Let’s celebrate the gift of God’s new life,

People: And worship God in laughter and dancing!

OPENING PRAYER

(read together)

Compassionate God, the wind of your Spirit is the very sign of life for all who long for you. One breath from you and we are rescued from the arid valley of dry bones, given muscles and sinews and joy with which to praise you, and filled with the holy hope you grant to all your faithful children. Let our whole lives be filled with the life-breath of the Spirit, that what has lain dormant may burst into bloom, and what looks to us to be death may be revealed as but sleep before the emergence of new life. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

When we focus only on our own interests, we cannot see God. God invites us to look at ourselves, recognizing the ways we have separated ourselves from God and confess those ways to God. Let’s do so now, at this moment, as we pray together our prayer of confession.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(read together)

Revitalizing God, your power goes far beyond our own, and yet still we act as though the pains of this world have final claim upon us. We give in to the despair and hopelessness of death, not trusting in your ability to call forth new life from the tombs of our lives. Forgive us for doubting your power to raise up new life in the midst of all the deaths we experience. Forgive us for wanting to limit you to “the last day” or “the world beyond this one”, not trusting you to move and act among us, within us, through us. Forgive us, and open our eyes to the wonder of new life sprouting into being in our very midst. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

Leader: God said to Ezekiel, “I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live.” The One who raised Jesus from the dead, forgives us and promises us life in all of its abundance.

People: Our sin has died! We are raised to new life! Praise God! We are forgiven!

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 130

***MIDDLE SONG:** “Jesus, Lover of My Soul”

#439

*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 Ezekiel 37:1-14

read from the *Common English Bible*

MESSAGE: “Breathe!”

Pastor Burtnett

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY**

Words #44

***DEDICATION OF OFFERING PRAYER**

Holy God, receive our offerings, that they may go forth to continue the work of Jesus, who brings fullness of life. May our gifts be a source of God’s light in the world. Amen.

***CLOSING SONG** “Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness”

#326

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship (adapted), Opening Prayer, Prayer of Confession are from *Worship Ways- Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) are from *The Abingdon Worship Annual, 2020* edited by Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu. The Call to Confession (adapted) and Words of Assurance (adapted) are from *Taught By Love-Worship Resources for Year A* and *Fresh Winds of the Spirit, Book 2* both by Lavon Bayler. *The Affirmation of Faith* is by Steve Garnaas-Holmes.

=====

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

=====

March Radio Sponsor: Ginny Buchanan

Birthdays: 3-23 Helen Scuffham, 3-24 Isaac Hines, 3-26 Gene Vaske

Drivers are needed for Meals on Wheels in April. We will have one route. Please contact the office if you can help.

Newsletter articles are due in the office by March 31st.

The One Great Hour of Sharing donations may be mailed to the office, along with other offerings and pledges.

The Our Daily Bread Easter Reflections booklets are in the fellowship hall entry.

The Algona Community Blood Drive will be held April 6th at the Methodist Church in the afternoon.

This Sunday’s sermon can be heard on KLG radio next Sunday at 11 am. Visit our web site at www.algonaucc.org, for today’s service.

**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