

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
Algona, Iowa  
First Sunday in Lent  
February 21, 2021

## PRELUDE

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

Leader: Come, let's lift up the spirit of our whole selves to God.

**People: We trust unashamedly in God; seeking that God be not ashamed of us.**

Leader: May we begin our Lenten journey together in right relationships;

**People: We come that God may teach us, show us, and guide us in our paths, that God may grow us to know God's ways more clearly.**

Leader: God is the God of our salvation and the Sustainer of good relations.

**People: For God we wait.**

Leader: May integrity, a clean conscience, and upright living preserve us.

**People: Amen! Let's worship God!**

### \*OPENING SONG

"Come, Thou Almighty King"

#148

### OPENING PRAYER

(read together)

Today God, in this time of worship, turn our hearts toward you. Touch our spirits by your Spirit. Teach us your everlasting truth. Come with conviction and revelation. That we may be convinced of our wrong and that you may reveal your forgiveness and your desire for our lives. Transform our lives into the likeness of Jesus, our Savior. For it is in his name we ask it all. Amen.

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(read together)

Have mercy on your church, God, for we forget the covenant into which you call us. We muddle along in our self-serving schemes rather than waiting on your word. We follow the path of least resistance without seeking your higher way. We forget our baptism into a faith community built on trust and forgiveness. We turn from the vision of your realm to the treacherous hell of competing egos. We turn to you to lead us to a new day. According to your steadfast love, forgive us. Amen.

## SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

Leader: God is faithful to the covenant, even when we forget. In compassion and steadfast love, God lifts us above the sins of our youth and the transgressions of today.

**People: Jesus brings us to God that we might receive a new spirit and a good conscience. We are God's beloved children who are welcomed into God's realm right here, right now, in the midst of life. Thanks be to God! Amen!**

### FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 25:1-10

### AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

**I believe in God the Creator, who made me and all things, who set me on my path in this world. I believe in God the Savior, who is one with the Creator, who rescued me and all creation from the depredations of our violations against God and creation.**

**This man, Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ, walked a path through this world. Taking on human form he lived and worked in this world among people just like me. He walked God's path to death on a cross, and rose from the dead to open our pathway to eternal life.**

**I believe in God the Holy Spirit, my counselor and guide, who is one with the Creator and the Christ, who through Jesus, brings me into communion with all people, past, present and future; who calls me to walk a sacred way of life through this world, caring for creation and the people I meet on the way, loving them, helping them, welcoming them without prejudice, being God's hands and feet in the world. Amen.**

### GLORIA PATRI

#734

### FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Mark 1:9-15

read from the *Common English Bible*

### MESSAGE:

"Living a Parallel Life"

Pastor Burtnett

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD'S PRAYER

### AFFIRMING OUR GIFTS

#### \* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

(prayed together)

**God of all bounty and blessing, receive our lives and our gifts to be bounty and blessings to you, your church, and the world. Amen.**

### DOXOLOGY

Words #44

#### \*CLOSING SONG

"Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days"

#252

**GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**POSTLUDE**

The Call to Worship (adapted) and Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) are from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Opening Prayer (adapted) is from *Invocations and Benedictions for the Revised Common Lectionary* by John M. Drescher. The Call to Confession (adapted) is from *Whispers of God-Liturgical Resources for Year B* by Lavon Bayler. The Prayer of Confession (adapted) and Words of Assurance (adapted) are from *Led By Love, Worship Resources for Year B* by Lavon Bayler. The Affirmation of Faith (adapted) is by Lisa Frenz.

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

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February Radio Sponsor: David Burrow

The March, April, May devotion booklet Our Dailey Bread, may be picked up in the entry of the Education Center. One can also be sent or dropped off to you if you would like, please let us know.

We need radio sponsors for the following months: May, June July, September, October, November and December. Please call the church office to reserve a month. Thank you.

Please send or drop off your offerings to the church!

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



**“Where No One Is A Stranger”**

**315 S. Moore Street – Algona, IA 50511**

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