

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
Algona, Iowa  
Second Sunday in Lent  
February 28, 2021

## PRELUDE

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

Leader: Come, let's worship our God, whose words and ways challenge us.

**People: God invites us to lose our selfishness to find ourselves.**

Leader: God calls us to be fools in the world to show forth the wisdom of Christ.

**People: God urges us to empty ourselves to discover life's fullness.**

Leader: God bids us to be obedient to a divine will so we might know true freedom.

**People: We come to worship our Creator, seeking to have our faith challenged into growth.**

### \*OPENING SONG

"The God of Abraham Praise"

#16

### OPENING PRAYER

(read together)

We call on your name in this time of worship, Almighty God, eager to know you more fully and serve you more faithfully. We have heard of your amazing promises given to our ancestors in faith. We seek your word for us in our day, for we want to grow strong in our faith as our ancestors did in theirs. As they gave you glory and praise, we come to do the same. As they passed on their faith to new generations, we seek to do the same, so that coming generations may be drawn to minister in your name. Amen.

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(read together)

Wise and powerful God, you have given us your light and truth to guide us through confusion, yet we have relied instead on human wisdom and have lost our way. You offer to share our burdens and give us your strength, yet we trust in our own efforts and find ourselves exhausted. Bring us back into your presence; overcome our separation from one another and from you. By your Word and Spirit, fill us with your gifts that equip us to meet life's demands, that we may be your people in the world and live in the confidence and joy of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

## SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

Leader: This is the good news: God does not go back on the promises made so long ago. God does not reject us, God redeems us. God does not withhold love, God pours it into our barren lives.

**People: Forgiven of our sins, filled with hope, living in relationship with God and one another - we are a new people. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

### FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalms 22:23-31

### AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

**We believe that our lives are held within the encircling love of God, who knows our names and recognizes our deepest needs.**

**We believe that Christ is the divine Child of the living God, and that his grace is like living waters that can never be exhausted.**

**We believe in the birthing, renewing, enabling Spirit of God who yearns over our welfare as a mother yearns for her child.**

**We believe that God is in the arid desert as well as in green pastures, and that hard times and disciplines are also loving gifts.**

**We believe that our journey has a purpose and a destination, and that our path leads to a human glory we cannot yet imagine.**

**We believe that in the church we are fellow pilgrims on the road, and that we are called to love one another as God loves us.**

**This is our faith and we are humbled to profess in Jesus the Christ. Amen**

### GLORIA PATRI

#734

### FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Mark 8:31-38

read from the *Common English Bible*

### MESSAGE:

"Of Two Minds"

Pastor Burnett

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

### AFFIRMING OUR GIFTS

#### \* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

(prayed together)

Generous God, may these gifts represent our willingness to deny ourselves, so others might be blessed by your grace, your peace, as well as your hope, in every moment of their lives. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

### DOXOLOGY

Words #44

\*CLOSING SONG

“The Summons”

#350

GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship (adapted) is by Glen E. Rainsley from *Bread for the Journey, Resources for Worship*, edited by Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi. The Opening Prayer (adapted) is from *Led By Love, Worship Resources for Year B*, by Lavon Bayler. The Call to Confession, Words of Assurance, and Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Prayer of Confession is by Paul J. Flucke from *Bread for the Journey, Resources for Worship* edited by Ruth C. Duck. The Affirmation of Faith is from **Traveling to Easter with Jesus as our Guide**, posted on the website of Patmos Abbey.

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

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February Radio Sponsor: David Burrow

Birthdays: 2-28-Charlie Hines; 3-1 Scott Buchanan

Friday, March 5: World Day of Prayer, by the women of Vanuatu. For more information on this country go to: <https://worlddayofprayer.net/vanuatu-2021.html>

Sunday, March 7: Communion Sunday. Please have your Communion elements ready for the service.

Sunday, March 14: One Great Hour of Sharing offering.

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”

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