

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Third Sunday in Lent
March 7, 2021

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Called by Christ,

People: we come as Christ's body, many yet one.

Leader: Blessed by God's wisdom,

People: we come to learn.

Leader: Amazed by God's love,

People: we come to worship.

***OPENING SONG**

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

#569

OPENING PRAYER

(read together)

God of glory and might, speak to us with your wisdom, that we might hear you. Display your majesty, that we might truly see you. Transform the chaos of our lives with the clarity of your call, that we might worship you in spirit and in truth. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(read together)

You give us your commandments, Holy One, so we may have new life, but we continue to make the same old choices. Your love can anchor us when life threatens to overwhelm us, but we choose to cling to the slippery rocks of anger and bitterness. Your Word can strengthen us for every moment, but we listen to the foolish promises of the world.

Forgive us, Redeemer of our lives: may every word be shaped by your Word; may every thought be refined by your grace; may every deed be inspired by your Spirit, so we may tell everyone we meet of your work in us, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

Leader: When brokenhearted prayers replace piety, when we seek wholeness through the One broken for us, then we remember we are saved by God's powerful love.

People: We are healed, to bring healing to our world; we are strengthened in faith, to become spent for others; we are set free from our bondage to sin, so we may become servants of Christ. Thanks be to God. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 20:1-17

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, who is made known to us in Jesus, our Lord, and to whose deeds we testify: God calls the worlds into being, creates humankind in the divine image, and sets before us the ways of life and death. God seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin. God judges all humanity and all nations by that will of righteousness declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord, God has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the whole creation to its Creator.

God bestows upon us the Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

God calls us into the Church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be servants in the service of the whole human family, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory. God promises to all who trust in the gospel, forgiveness of sin and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, the presence of the Holy Spirit in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in that realm that has no end. Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto God. Amen

GLORIA PATRI

#734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Psalms 19

read from the *Good News Bible*

MESSAGE:

"Meditate, Speak, Live"

Pastor Burtnett

Gathering at Jesus' Table

Invitation, Communion Prayer, Sanctus, Words of Institution, Consecration Prayer, Lord's Prayer, Partaking of the Bread and Cup

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

PRAYER of THANKSGIVING

Gracious God, we thank you that in this sacrament of bread and cup you assure us of your goodness and love. Accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving and help us to grow in love and obedience, that we may serve you in the world. We offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Lord. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work for your praise and glory. Amen.

AFFIRMING OUR GIFTS

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

(prayed together)

Wise and wonderful God, may the gifts we share be offerings of our hearts. Bless each gift by your grace, that others may know the truth of your wisdom and your love. Amen

DOXOLOGY

Words #44

***CLOSING SONG**

“How Firm a Foundation”

#411

GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship (adapted) and Opening Prayer and Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) are by Mary J. Scifres from *The Abingdon Worship Annual, 2021 Worship Planning Resources for Every Sunday of the Year*, edited by Mary J. 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 Our United Church of Christ Statement of Faith. The Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving (adapted) is from *A Prayer Book for Australia*

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

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March Radio Sponsor: Ginny Buchanan

Birthdays: 3-9-Sam Grindberg; 3-10-Brendan Burtnett;

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

Monday, March 8: Algona Community Blood Drive 12:30-5:30pm. at 1st United Methodist

Tuesday, March 9: 9:30-11:30-Pastor Chris at Feed Mill

Algona Community Blood Drive 9:00am-2:00pm. at 1st United Methodist

Wednesday, March 10: 7 pm. Church Board meeting

Saturday, March 13: Daylight savings begins. Set clocks ahead one hour

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: July, September, October, November and December. Please call the church office to reserve a month. Thank you.

**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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