

First Congregational United Church of Christ
"Where No One Is A Stranger"
First Sunday in Lent
March 6, 2022

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: Jesus began his ministry to the world, led by the Spirit into the wilderness.

Many: As we begin our Lenten journey, let us be led by the Spirit, even into the uncomfortable places.

One: In those forty days, and in that place, Jesus was faced with hunger, doubt, and temptation.

Many: As we seek to follow Jesus, we would be led, even into the uncomfortable choices.

One: Jesus left the wilderness, faithful and obedient to God, rejoicing in the One in whom he trusted.

Many: As we continue on our path to faithfulness, we will be led by our Christ, rejoicing in the Lord our God.

OPENING SONG

"Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"

#82

*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

Divine Sojourner, as we travel far into the wilderness, may your light sustain us. May the questions that fill our minds with doubt drift away into the sands of the journey. May we dig within our souls to remove the prejudices deep within us. However we wander in this season, may your Holy Glow refocus our attention on our relationship with you and the ways we connect with our siblings. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(prayed together)

We meet you here, God of faithfulness, our hands and lives full of all our foolish ways. Your people, we treat the strangers who walk among us with fear and doubt. We afflict our anger on those who care about us the most. We impose hard words on those who need to hear hope and grace in their lives.

So now we bring our hearts to you, Generous God, setting them down before you in hopes that you will mend them. As you hear our faltering words, we pray you would

answer us with your forgiving love. And as you forgive us, may we go forth to be generous with our lives towards others, even as the one who is Lord of all, Jesus Christ, has been so generous to us. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

One: As you have confessed, do you so believe? The good news is that there is nothing we do that can conquer us, for we are sheltered in God's gracious mercy and hope.

Many: This is the truth we believe. The Word is in our hearts, and on our lips, as we give thanks to God who is our shelter and our life. Amen.

SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

UCC Statement of Faith

(read together)

(inside back cover of hymnal)

*GLORIA PATRI

#734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Luke 4:1-13

shared from *The Message*

MESSAGE:

"There'll Be Another Opportunity"

Pastor Chris

GATHERING AT CHRIST'S TABLE Invitation, Communion Prayer, Sanctus, Words of Institution, Consecration Prayer, Lord's Prayer

Sharing the Bread - Hymn #699 verse 1

Sharing the Cup - Hymn #699 verse 2

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 - Hymn #699 verse 3

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Mighty God, we come to you thankful for our many blessings. Receive our offerings as the first fruits of your bounty in our lives. Send our gifts into a world that is hungry to know your refuge and your strength. Amen.

***Closing Song**

“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

#252

***Going Forth with the Peace of Christ**

The Call to Worship, Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, and Words of Assurance, are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Opening Prayer is from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) is by B.J. from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2022* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B.J. Beu. The Affirmation of Faith is a version of our United Church of Christ Statement of Faith.

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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: March 9-Sam Grindberg; 10-Elise Vaske and Brendan Burtnett

Today, March 6: 10:00 am. – Worship with Sacrament of Communion
Sunday School
Coffee
Food Pantry

Tuesday, March 8: 9:30 – 11:30 am.- Pastor Chris at Feed Mill
2:30 – Good Sam Bible Study

Thursday, March 10: 8:30am. Ministerial Meeting at Algona Faith

Sunday, March 13: 10:00 am. – Worship
Sunday School
Coffee

A radio sponsor is needed for September.

“Our Daily Bread” devotion for March, April and May is here. It may be picked up in the Fellowship entry.

Algona Community Blood Drive will be on Monday, March 14 from 12:30-5:30pm and on Tuesday, March 15 from 9am-2pm at the 1st United Methodist Church.

Daylight Savings begins on March 13, don’t forget to set your clocks ahead 1 hour on Saturday evening.

One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be taken March 27.



*First Congregational
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