

First Congregational United Church of Christ
“Where No One Is a Stranger”
315 S. Moore Street – Algona, IA 50511
515-295-2845
Second Sunday in Lent
March 13, 2022

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

One: Today, God comes to us, to gather us in worship:

Many: to wait in silence for the Word, to sit in the presence of grace.

One: Tomorrow, the Word of God comes, calling us to go forth to serve:

Many: to bring hope to those who have none, to love all tossed aside by indifference.

One: The next day, and the next day, the Holy Spirit will come:

One: so we might discover the gift of peace, and offer it to our broken world.

*OPENING SONG “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” #72

*OPENING PRAYER (prayed together)

Lifegiving lover of all nations, you promised Abraham and Sarah that their descendants would be more plentiful than all the stars in the night sky. You made a covenant to guide them throughout the ages. Just as you guided our ancestors in faith, guide us here today, and teach us your ways. Help us remember the ancient stories, even as we place our trust in you and exalt your name. Bless us as we follow the path that leads us to the cross with Jesus. Amen.

TIME FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (prayed together)

Offered a feast at grace’s table, God of the covenant, we choose to gorge ourselves on the empty calories of greed. Invited to live in your house, we move into death’s fear-infested boarding house. Though you promise to be with us, we toss you aside, chasing after those who will abandon us at the first chance.

But you will not let the foxes of foolishness devour us, Mothering God, but will gather us under the shelter of your love. You do so in order to give us that peace which heals us, that wonder which surprises us, and that faith which enables us to let go of the present

to walk into the covenant of grace made possible through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

One: God does not abandon us. Like a border collie, God gathers us up, leading us to that shelter of love and life.

Many: Today, tomorrow, and the next day, God’s grace rests upon us and gives us hope and mercy. Thanks be to God! We are forgiven. Amen.

SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Philippians 3:17-4:1

*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 Luke 13:31-35 shared from *The Message*

MESSAGE “I’m Busy” Pastor Chris

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD’S PRAYER PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY Words #44

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (prayed together)

As you have blessed us beyond all expectation and need, God, we would join in imitating you, by offering gifts which will bring hope, healing, and help to those who struggle in this life. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

***CLOSING SONG**

“O Jesus, I Have Promised”

#458

GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST

POSTLUDE

*Indicates all who are able please stand

The Call to Worship (adapted), Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, Words of Assurance, and Offering Prayer of Dedication are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Opening Prayer is by Deborah Sokolove from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2022* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B.J. Beu. The Affirmation of Faith is from **Traveling to Easter with Jesus as our Guide**, posted on the website of Patmos Abbey—The Order of Saint Columbia <http://www.patmosabbey.org/>.

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Organist: Liz Reynolds
Lector: David Burrows
Worship Leader: Pastor Chris

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March Radio Sponsor: Ginny Buchanan

Birthdays: March 15: Geoff Buchanan; 20: Sandy Person and Max Person

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

Tuesday, March 15: 9:30 – 11:30 am.- Pastor Chris at Feed Mill
2:30 – Good Sam Bible Study

Wednesday, March 16: 7pm. – 8:30 am. Multi-disciplinary Team Meeting in Fellowship Hall
7pm. Board Meeting in Fellowship Hall

Saturday, March 19: 10am. – Farmers Market Meeting in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, March 20: 10:00 am. – Worship
Sunday School
Coffee

A radio sponsor is needed for September.

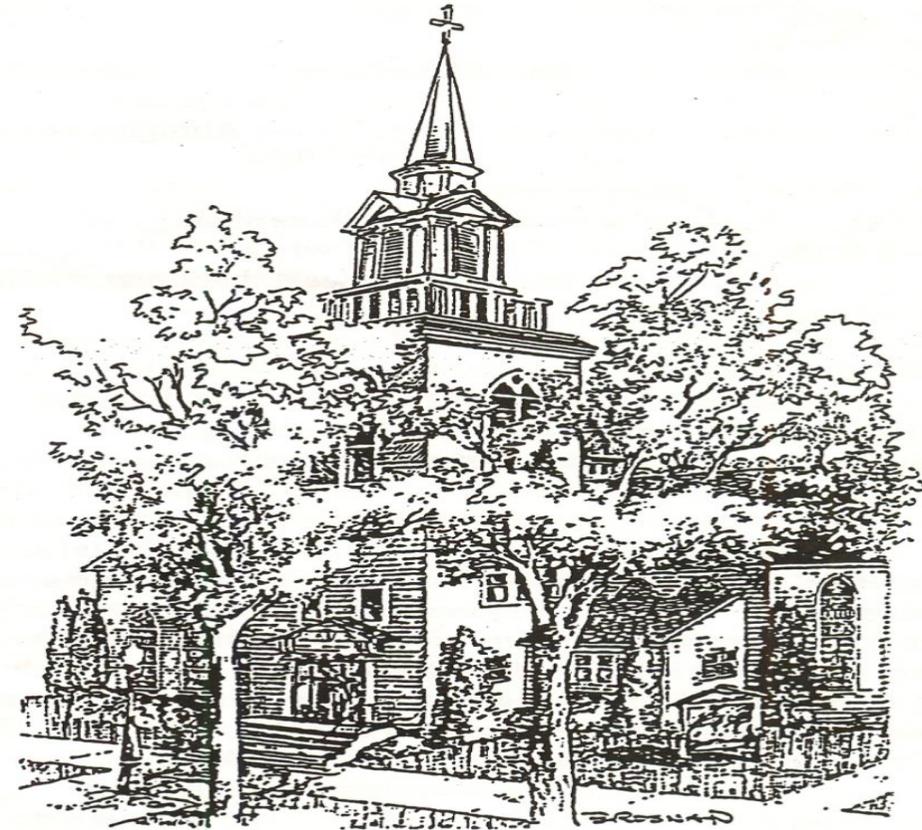
“Our Daily Bread” devotion for March, April and May is here. It may be picked up in the Fellowship entry.

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.

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

The April/May Newsletter deadline will be March 29th.

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