

First Congregational United Church of Christ
“Where No One Is a Stranger”
315 S. Moore Street – Algona, IA 50511
515-295-2845
Third Sunday in Lent
March 20, 2022

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

One: We come, because we seek our God.

Many: Every morning, every day, every evening, every moment, God is with us.

One: We come, because we hunger for Christ.

Many: Jesus will feed us with hope, will replace our emptiness with grace.

One: We come, because we thirst for the Spirit.

Many: Who fills our yearning for peace, who ends the drought of justice.

*OPENING SONG “Morning Has Broken” #35

*OPENING PRAYER (prayed together)

Author of abundance, God of change, we come into this hour with holy expectations. As we travel on our journey of transformation this Lenten season, we know that you are with us. You walk beside us. Your presence surrounds us. Help us to bear fruit as we walk this road. Remind us that you will never leave us nor forsakes us, that your rod and your staff comfort us, that you have prepared a feast for us where all can come and eat. Keep us forever on the path as we worship you in spirit and in truth. Amen.

TIME FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (prayed together)

The thirsty come, God, and we offer lead-filled water; the hungry come, and we offer a single can from our overflowing pantries; the lonely come, and we cling to our cliques; the broken come, and we hand them an aspirin; the needy come, but we have wasted everything on stuff we do not need.

Have mercy on us, Steadfast love, and pour your heart into our grace-parched souls. As you have been with us in every moment, may we go to be with all around us. May we

listen to the needs and hearts of others, even as you lean down to listen to us in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

One: In every moment, God seeks what is best for us, continually offering us peace, hope, and forgiveness.

Many: We will bless God in every moment, rejoicing with the One who fills us with steadfast love. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.

SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 63:1-8

*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 having been born of a woman through the power of the Holy Spirit. 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.

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 Luke 13:1-9 shared from the *Common English Bible*

MESSAGE “Another Second Chance” Pastor Chris

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD’S PRAYER

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY Words #44

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (prayed together)

God of grace, may the gifts we bring this morning be an offering of gratitude and may they be a promise to share what we have received from your hand. Amen.

***CLOSING SONG**

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

#501

GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST

POSTLUDE

*Indicates all who are able please stand

The Call to Worship, Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession (adapted), 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 Kristin Linford from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2022* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B.J. Beu. The Affirmation of Faith (adapted) is written by Lisa Frenz, and posted on **Lisa’s Liturgies**. <https://sites.google.com/site/lisaliturgies/home>. “Copyright Lisa Frenz. All Rights Reserved. Used with permission.”

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Organist: Liz Reynolds
Lector: David Burrows
Worship Leader: Pastor Chris
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March Radio Sponsor: Ginny Buchanan

Birthdays: 20: Sandy Person and Max Person; 23: Helen Scuffham; 24: Isaac Hines; 26: Gene Vaske

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

Tuesday, March 22: 9:30 – 11:30 am.- Pastor Chris at Feed Mill
2:30 – Good Sam Bible Study

Thursday, March 24: 10am. – Clergy Cluster in Humboldt

Sunday, March 27: 10:00 am. – Worship
Sunday School
Coffee

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

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

The April/May Newsletter deadline is March 29th.



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