

First Congregational United Church of Christ
"Where No One Is A Stranger"
Fifth Sunday in Lent
April 3, 2022

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: We come to this place because we want to know God,

Many: who helps us set aside the past, to walk the path to new life.

One: We come in these moments because we want to know Jesus,

Many: who anoints us with the resurrection, who shares our lives with us.

One: We come with these people because we want to know the Spirit,

Many: who shapes us for life with God.

OPENING SONG

"Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above"

#56

*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

Holy One, we rejoice in your presence. We acknowledge that you have done great things in our history, in our present, and in our future. Our hope rests in you. We rejoice in confidence that you abide in our dry spaces and in our flowing streams. Lead us through troubling times and empower us to continue to press toward you and your way. In our worship, part our lips in praise, open our hearts in love, and quench our spirits in worship. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(prayed together)

Like Judas, God of new things, we like to complain about your generous ways, rather than living in your grace. The poor are always with us, we believe, which justifies our ignoring them. In our memories, we see a perceived golden past, and so close our eyes to the new things you do in our midst. We are so enamored with our achievements that we are not willing to throw them away in order to follow Jesus.

Forgive us, Restoring God, and help us to notice your realm springing forth in our midst. By your grace, may our fears turn to faith, our seeds of grief produce a bumper

crop of joy, and our tears turn into torrents of tenderness as we journey with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, to Jerusalem. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

One: Making a way through all the foolishness and mistakes of our lives, God leads us into new life, where we are restored to grace, to hope, and to peace.

Many: Do we notice what God has done for us, what God is doing in us? This is good news for everyone. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Philippians 3:4b-14

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

UCC Statement of Faith

(read together)

(inside back cover of hymnal)

*GLORIA PATRI

#734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

John 12:1-8

shared from *The Message*

MESSAGE:

"How much?"

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

Anoint these gifts, Generous God, that they may fulfill their purpose. Through the pouring out of our financial resources, unique passions and skills, and faithful companionship with our community, may we impart hope, render joy, and participate in your kingdom. Amen.

***Closing Song**

“Fairest Lord Jesus”

#123

***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, and Offering Prayer of Dedication are from *Worship Ways-Worship Resource for the United Church of Christ*. 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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April Radio Sponsor: Pastor Chris and Pam Burtnett

Birthdays: April: 6-Carter Bachman; 7-Becky Marine

Today, April 3: 10:00 am. – Worship with Sacrament of Communion
 Sunday School
 Coffee
 Food Pantry

Thursday, April 7: 8:30am. -Ministerial at Trinity

Sunday, April 10: 10:00 am.- Palm Sunday Worship
 Sunday School
 Congregational Meeting to approve our WISE Church Covenant
 Palm Sunday Brunch following Congregational Meeting

“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, April 4 from 12:30-5:30pm and on Tuesday, April 5 from 9am-2pm at the 1st United Methodist Church

Please keep in your prayers the family of Dennis Schwab. Dennis passed away March 28. Visitation for Dennis was Friday evening and funeral his funeral service was on Saturday.

We will be ordering Easter Lilies from Hy-Vee on April 4th. Please let the church office know before then, if you would like one and in honor of or in memory of for the bulletin insert. The cost is \$8.50. Thank you.



*First Congregational
 United Church of Christ*

315 Moore Street – Algona, IA 50511
 515-295-2845