

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
"Where No One Is A Stranger"  
Second Sunday in Lent  
February 25, 2024

## PRELUDE

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: Lent calls us to journey, this and every day, following Jesus wherever he leads us.

Many: Lent calls us to journey: to the place where God covenants with us, to receive the new names we are given.

One: Lent calls us to worship together, to tell future generations the good news.

Many: Lent calls us to practice justice, to bring God's hope to all people.

One: Lent calls us to faithful living, to trust the One who gives us life.

Many: Lent calls each of us to take up our cross, to trust the One who bears it with us.

One: Lent calls us to journey with God.

Many: Let us worship God, who walks with us, this and every day.

### \*Opening Song:

"The God of Abraham Praise"

#16

### \*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

Ancient of Days, bring your future hope into our world. Bring your love into our lives. Bring your presence into our midst. Open our hearts and minds to your message, that we may respond with hope and trust. With our ancestors of old, may we walk in the lineage of faithful discipleship. Amen.

## TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(prayed together)

God of Sarah and Abraham, in this holy place, we know how weak is our discipleship. We can spend hours at the computer, but only give you fleeting moments of our time. We can talk endlessly on our cell phones, but fall silent when it comes to sharing our fears, our worries, our hopes with you. We seek quick fixes for our problems, rather than seeking your vision and future for our lives.

God of Peter, Paul, and the psalmist, forgive us: for our lack of trust; for our faithless

living; for our closing our ears to the call of Jesus. Forgive us, so we may lay aside all that keeps us from you, so we may take up the life you offer to us, through Jesus our Savior.

## A TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: This is the good news: God does not go back on God's promises made so long ago. God does not reject us, God redeems us. God does not withhold love, God pours it into our barren lives.

Many: Forgiven of our sins, filled with hope, living in relationship with God and one another we are a new people. Thanks be to God. Amen.

### SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

### \*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(prayed together)

We sing of God the Spirit, who from the beginning has swept over the face of creation, animating all energy and matter and moving in the human heart. We sing of God the Spirit, faithful and untameable, who is creatively and redemptively active in the world. The Spirit challenges us to celebrate the holy not only in what is familiar, but also in that which seems foreign.

We sing of the Spirit, who speaks our prayers of deepest longing and enfolds our concerns and confessions, transforming us and the world.

We offer worship as an outpouring of gratitude and awe and a practice of opening ourselves to God's still, small voice of comfort, to God's rushing whirlwind of challenge. Through word, music, art, and sacrament, in community and in solitude, God changes our lives, our relationships, and our world.

### \*GLORIA PATRI

#734

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world with-out end. A-men, A-men.

### FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Mark 8:31-38

read from the *Good News Bible*

### MESSAGE:

"Hold on Tight"

Pastor Chris

Prayers of The People/The Lord's Prayer (with debts/debtors)

## PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

## OFFERTORY

**\*DOXOLOGY**

#34

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, you heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Giving God, Jesus invited us to give our lives away, take up our cross, and to follow.  
Rather than exchanging our souls, may the sharing of these gifts nurture our  
commitment to walk in your way. In the name and way of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

**\*Closing Song:**

“Be Still My Soul”

#451

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

**POSTLUDE**

**\*Indicates all who are able please stand**

Other Lectionary Scripture Readings: Psalm 22:23-31, Romans 4:13-25

The Call to Worship, Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, and Words of Assurance are by Thom M. Shuman from Lectionary Liturgies. The Opening Prayer is by Mary Scifres from The Abingdon Worship Annual 2024 edited by Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu. The Prayer of Dedication was written by The Rev. Dr. Chad Abbot, Conference Minister in the Indiana-Kentucky Conference of the United Church of Christ from Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ. The Affirmation of Faith is excerpted from Song of Faith of the United Church of Canada (2006).

=====

Worship Leader:	Pastor Chris Burtnett
Lector:	David Burrow
Organist:	Antonia Rupert
February Radio Sponsor:	David Burrow

=====

Birthdays: February-28-Charlie Hines; 3-1-Scott Buchanan

Sunday, February 25: 10:30am - Worship  
Sunday School  
Coffee

Tuesday, February 27: 9:30-11am.-Pastor at Feed Mill

Sunday, March 3: 10:30am – Worship with Sacrament of Communion  
Sunday School  
Coffee  
Food Pantry

The March, April, May issue of “Our Daily Bread” may be picked up in the Fellowship Hall entry.



# *First Congregational United Church of Christ*

## *165 Years*

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