

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
“Where No One Is A Stranger”  
Third Sunday in Lent  
March 3, 2024

## PRELUDE

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

One: The morning stars profess God's glory:

**Many: the waking birds harmonize a refrain of grace.**

One: The sun warms us with God's hope, the night sky whispers peace to our sleepy souls:

**Many: creation's voice echoes continually in our hearts, reminding us of God's steadfast love.**

One: Our wisdom is shattered by God's absurd love; God's vulnerability strengthens our feeble faith:

**Many: God's words place joy in our hearts; we follow them to peace and hope.**

### \*Opening Song: “Let the Whole Creation Cry” #6

### \*OPENING PRAYER (prayed together)

Creator God, you call us from our busy lives to find knowledge and rest in this holy place. Center our spirits in your love. Open our hearts to your transforming word, for we are ready to align our spirits, remember your words, and walk in your paths. Guide us in wisdom and truth as we seek to follow your word. Amen.

## TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (prayed together)

You give us your commandments, Holy One, so we may have new life, but we continue to make the same old choices. Your love can anchor us when life threatens to overwhelm us, but we choose to cling to the slippery rocks of anger and bitterness. Your Word can strengthen us for every moment, but we listen to the foolish promises of the world.

Forgive us, Redeemer of our lives: may every word be shaped by your Word; may every thought be refined by your grace; may every deed be inspired by your Spirit, so we may tell everyone we meet of your work in us, through Jesus our Savior.

## A TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: When brokenhearted prayers replace piety, when we seek wholeness through the One broken for us, then we remember we are saved by God's powerful love.

**Many: We are healed, to bring healing to our world; we are strengthened in faith, to become spent for others; we are set free from our bondage to sin, so we may become servants of Christ. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

### SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING John 2:13-22

### \*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH inside back cover of hymnal (read together)

### \*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 Psalm 19 read from *The Message*

### MESSAGE: “A Time for Joyful Praise” Pastor Chris

### Communion Song: “I Come with Joy” #706

## GATHERING AT CHRIST’S TABLE

Invitation, Communion Prayer, Sanctus, Words of Institution, Consecration Prayer, Lord’s Prayer (debts/debtors), Sharing the Bread and Cup

## 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:

**We give you thanks, God, because in your own free gift of love you have reached out to us. You have refreshed us at your table, touched our deepest needs, and called us to a life shared in memory and hope. Send us forth with courage and joy in the name of Jesus, that we, too, may become bread and peace for one another and the world. Amen.**

## 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**

Holy One, we offer these gifts with grateful hearts, that you may use them to build your community of justice and righteousness. We offer our very lives as well, knowing that you will lead us in the path of holy service. Amen.

**\*Closing Song:**

“How Can I Keep from Singing”

#424

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

**POSTLUDE**

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

Other Lectionary Scripture Readings: Exodus 20:1-17, 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

The Call to Worship, Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession (adapted), and Words of Assurance are by Thom M. Shuman from Lectionary Liturgies. The Opening Prayer and Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) are by Mary Petrina Boyd from The Abingdon Worship Annual 2024 edited by Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu, The Affirmation of Faith is by Mary Sue Gast and Roger D. Straw from Flames of the Spirit-Resources for Worship Like Bread for the Journey, edited by Ruth C. Duck. The Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving (adapted) is by Mary Ann Neevel from *Flames of the Spirit-Resources for Worship Like Bread for the Journey* edited by Ruth C. Duck

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Worship Leader:

Pastor Chris Burtnett

Lector:

David Burrow

Organist:

Antonia Rupert

March Radio Sponsor:

Ginny Buchanan

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Birthdays: March-9-Samuel John Grindberg

Sunday, March 3: 10:30am – Worship with Sacrament of Communion

Sunday School

Coffee

Food Pantry

Sunday, March 10: 10:30am – Worship -led by David Burrow

Sunday School

Coffee

It is Easter Lily Time: If you would like to order an Easter Lily, they are \$12 each. Please let the Church Office know how many you would like who they are in honor or in memory of.

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

Pastor Chris will be on vacation starting March 4 and will be back in the Office on March 12. If you need pastoral assistance, please call Dave Skilling at 319-290-2302.



**First Congregational  
United Church of Christ**

**165 Years**

315 Moore Street – Algona, IA 50511

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