

First Congregational United Church of Christ
“Where No One Is A Stranger”
Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 10, 2024

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

God’s love is for all creation.

The vastness of God is for all of us, together and beloved.

God has not come into the world in Jesus to condemn us.

Jesus has come to live God’s love in the flesh.

In a world dim with injustice and loneliness,

It is the light of Jesus that illumines our path.

Come, let us join our lives with the One whose love is for the whole world.

Let us worship God!

*Opening Song:

“The Old Rugged Cross”

#260

*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

God of the Unexpected, You are always with us, and You are always ahead of us, showing us the way. Often we can’t see the path You are leading us on, but as we take careful steps, with your guidance, the path emerges. In these days of change and danger, of fear and unease, we take tentative steps once again. Guide our feet, that we may find the path, and show others the way. Amen

BRIEF REFLECTION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

In becoming one of us, God became poor so we could receive the riches of mercy. In coming to us, God took on our death, so we could be made alive together with Christ. Let us offer our confessions, knowing that by grace we have been saved.

The words we speak all too often do not show you in our lives, God of our pilgrimage. We spend so much time boasting to others, they imagine we have no need for you. We grumble impatiently when you don't respond immediately to our requests, but are slow to sing your praises. We mutter under our breath about the behavior of those around us, when we could be asking them if there is some way we could serve them.

It is on our journey to the cross and the tomb that you fill us with the riches of your mercy, Steadfast Love! You do so, not because of anything we have done, but because of the compassion which flows from your heart wounded by our failings. As we open our lives to receive your forgiveness, may we turn to the Light which brings us life, following Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, every step of the way.

SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

How much does God love us? Enough to send the divine heart, hope, and spirit to us, not to condemn us, but to save us.

Not by our speaking or doing, but by God's good and precious grace are we saved. Thanks be to God! Amen.

FIRST READING:

Ephesians 2:1 – 10

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

We come from every tribe and language, every people and nation, to proclaim one holy faith. We believe in God the Father, who created all things. By his will they were created and have their being. We believe in God the Son, who was slain, who with his blood redeemed us from sin and purchased us for God. We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who even this day lives on in our hearts, strengthens us from on high, and fills us with God’s love. We believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

* GLORIA PATRI:

“Glory Be to the Father ...”

#734

GOSPEL READING:

John 3: 14 – 21

HYMN:

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

#72

SECOND READING:

Psalms 107: 1 – 22, 42 – 43

MESSAGE:

“It’s Always the Right Time”

David Burrow

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Respond: **Hear our prayer.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER

(with debts/debtors)

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS – OFFERTORY

* DOXOLOGY:

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

#34

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Gracious God, in gratitude we offer a small part of what you have given to us. Our gifts come with the prayer that all may know abundance and peace, in all places throughout the world. Amen.

*** HYMN:** "Let All Things Now Living" #22

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

POSTLUDE

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

Other Lectionary Scripture Readings: Numbers 21:14-21

Call to Worship by Rev. Chad Abbot – Conference Minister Indiana—Kentucky Conference of the United Church of Christ , Opening prayer from First United Methodist Church – Schenectady, NY, Confession by Thom Shuman, on re-worship.blogspot.com. Affirmation of Faith – “A Creed for Today” from the Church of England, Prayer of Dedication from the Uniting Church in Australia

=====

Organist:	Antoina Rupert
Worship Leader:	David Burrow
Pastor:	Rev. Chris Burtnett
March Radio Sponsor:	Ginny Buchanan

=====

Birthdays: March: 10-Brendan Burtnett; 15-Geoff Buchanan

Sunday, March 10: 10:30am - Worship
Sunday School
Coffee

Tuesday, March 12: 8:30-Committee on Ministry Zoom Meeting

Wednesday, March 13: 7pm.-Board Meeting

Thursday, March 14: 8:30am.-Ministereal All Agency Meeting in Fellowship Hall

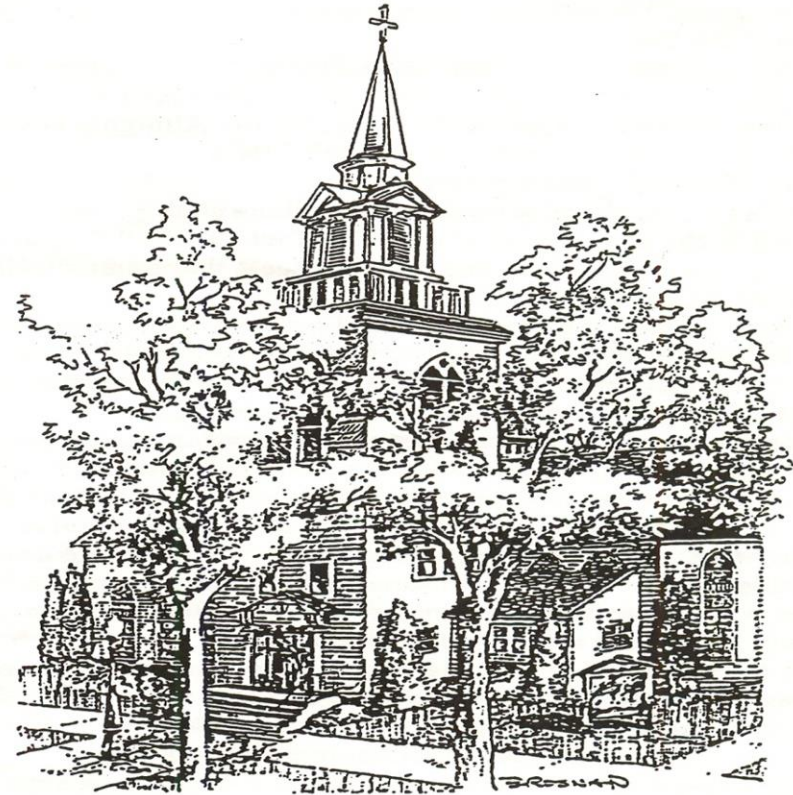
Sunday, March 17: 10:30am – Worship
Sunday School
Coffee

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.

Thank you to David Burrow for leading worship this morning.

*First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa*



“Where No One Is A Stranger”

*First Congregational
United Church of Christ
165 Years*

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