

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
July 16, 2017

PRELUDE
RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE FIRST READING FROM SCRIPTURE Isaiah 55:10-13

OPENING SONG: “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” #72

SHARING JESUS’ PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

Leader: Christ is in our midst! How will you bid him welcome?
People: **We will throw open the doors to our hearts. We will delight in his presence.**

When God shows up, surprising things can happen.
We will make ourselves ready.
We will lay down our burdens and set aside our distractions.

Here we receive good news: Nothing is too wonderful for God!
So let us laugh and sing, rest and listen, dance and praise—

All: Let us worship God!

OPENING PRAYER

Wonderful, surprising God, you bring us hope when we are discouraged, peace when we are anxious, and joy when we are least expecting it. Help us, now, to rest in your presence. Be our welcome Guest not only here but everywhere we go this week. Show us how to receive all that you have to offer us. May we remain open even to what seems too incredible to be true, for with you, so much more is possible than we even imagine. We pray this in the name of your most Glorious Impossible, Jesus the Christ. **Amen.**

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (read together)

Gracious, inviting God, you continually provide us with opportunities to practice generous hospitality. But our fear of difference, reluctance to share, and desire to be in control make our welcome appear weak and insincere. Because we long for what is familiar and comfortable, we have difficulty honoring the stranger as a sacred guest who bears the face of Christ. Worn out and irritated by the work we think we must do, we miss opportunities to receive the gifts that such guests offer us. Forgive us, O God, for focusing on the wrong things. Show us how to do what is right.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The Psalmist declares that those who speak the truth from their heart will abide in God’s sanctuary. God hears the difficult truths we have named aloud and in the silence of our hearts. Now let the wonderful gift of God’s forgiveness flow through you. May the abundance of God’s mercy and grace set you free to serve God with love.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Romans 8:1-11

MIDDLE SONG: “For the Fruit of All Creation” #723

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

GLORIA PATRI #734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

MESSAGE: Pastor Smith

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

***DOXOLOGY**

***DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

CLOSING SONG: “Praise and Thanksgiving” #722

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

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Organist: Liz Reynolds
Lector: David Burrow
Worship Leader: Pastor Smith
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July Radio Sponsors: Pastor Chris and Pam Burtnett

Birthdays:
Announcements

Karen Dearchs will be on call while the Burtnetts are on vacation. Call her at 295-5150. Leave a message if she doesn't answer and she will return your call.
Tuesday Pastor Burtnett will be at a PCS meeting at 7 pm.
Next Sunday, the Cornbelt Chorus will be here at 10 am.

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



“Where No One Is A Stranger”

315 S. Moore Street – Algona, IA 50511
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