

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
July 23, 2017

PRELUDE
RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS

SPECIAL MUSICAL OFFERING

Corn Belt Chorus

GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE FIRST READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Genesis 28:10-19a
read from the *Good News Bible*

OPENING SONG: "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

#71

SHARING JESUS' PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

Leader: We come to celebrate God's blessings to us.

People: Surely God is in this place!

Leader: We come to open ourselves to God's guidance and love.

People: Surely God is in this place!

Leader: We come to see more clearly God's presence in our lives.

People: Surely God is in this place!

Leader: We come to see God in this community of seekers.

People: Surely God is in this place!

Leader: We come to pray, praise, and offer ourselves to God.

People: Surely God is in this place! Let us worship!

OPENING PRAYER

(read together)

Holy One, you know us already. Help us to know you better. Let us see you all around us. Fill our worship with your Spirit so that we may learn to recognize your presence in all places. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(read together)

Insolently we turn against you, God of truth. When we follow those desires that control us; when we live for ourselves, shutting off the gifts of those around us; when we think we do not need to share love, hope, peace with others, we show how we have joined that league of hooligans who ignore your way of life.

Yet, you have chosen to adopt us as your children, God-who-stands-with-us, forgiving us and making us inheritors with Jesus of your grace and joy. So lead us by the Spirit, that we might follow Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, into creation which groans for love and healing. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read together)

Leader: In sorrow so deep we cannot find our way out, God cradles us in comfort; in moments so shadowed we trip over our fears, God lights the way for us; in joy which cascades into our souls, God fills us with healing.

People: Even when we cannot see it, God's hope is all around us, surrounding us with peace and healing. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

MIDDLE SONG: "Come, Ye Thankful People Come"

#721

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

We know that God is in the world--was and is and always will be. God made it all, and continues to renew and remake and resurrect. We know God best in the life of Jesus, who was and is our maker of hope and the one who saves. We know the power and energy of God in the Holy Spirit. We are filled with God's joy and pledged to discipleship and love. We trust in God. We celebrate God. We work together for justice and peace through God. We are never alone. We are free in the chosen bonds of the ways of Christ. Thanks be to God! Amen.

GLORIA PATRI

#734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Psalms 139:1-12, 23-24
read from the *Common English Bible*

MESSAGE: "There's No Escape!"

Pastor Burnett

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

*DOXOLOGY

*DEDICATION OF OFFERING

CLOSING SONG: "Creating God, Your Fingers Trace"

#32

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship, Opening Prayer and Offering Prayer of Dedication are from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Affirmation of Faith is written by Mary Sue Gast and Roger D. Shaw and taken from the book *Flames of the Spirit* edited by Ruth C. Duck.

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Organist:	Liz Reynolds
Lector:	David Burrow
Worship Leader:	Pastor Burnett

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July Radio Sponsors: Arlen Beschoter

Birthdays:

Announcements

Wednesday at 7 pm the Adult Discussion group meets at Chuck West's.
Newsletter articles are due the 1st of August.

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



"Where No One Is A Stranger"

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