

First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa



“Where No One Is A Stranger”

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

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 20, 2017

PRELUDE
RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE FIRST READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Romans: 11:1-2a, 29-32
read from the *Common English Bible*

OPENING SONG: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

#72

SHARING JESUS' PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

Leader: How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

People: **It is like a summer rain which restores the parched earth.**

Leader: It is like a cool breeze at the shore of a lake, at the top of a mountain or through a crowded city street.

People: God meets us here. We have gathered to worship the Maker of Our Days, the Restorer of Our Souls and the Breath of Our Lives.

OPENING PRAYER

(read together)

Maker of Our Days, you created each of us unique beings with differing strengths and weaknesses. Help us not only to use our strengths to assist others but also to allow others to use their strengths to meet our weaknesses. You have seen the parched places we have made in our lives, along with the devastation thrust upon us by the action or inaction of others. Meet us in the places of our deepest pain so that our masks of self-sufficiency might fall away and we might be drawn into right relationship with you and one another. Without you we are but a mound of clay. Fill us with your presence, invigorate our worship, set us on fire so that others might be drawn into your light and nurtured by the warmth of your loving care. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(read together)

Forgiving God, you know when we withhold forgiveness. You know when we are not merciful. You know when we are stingy with your grace. You know when we reject and exclude. Forgive us and reclaim us. Strengthen us with your Spirit of love, that we may offer forgiveness and compassion in the pursuit of unity and love. In your mercy and grace we pray. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read together)

Leader: God does not reject us. God's grace, God's gifts and God's calling are never taken back.

People: We know God's love will never let us go.

Leader: This is good news, dear friends, believe it.

People: Thanks be to God. We are forgiven. Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 15:10-28

MIDDLE SONG: "My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

#419

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

We belong to God, eternal and infinite, Creator of all things and all that is to come.

We follow Christ, who comes to us from God, and reveals God to us. He heals people and transforms lives, and calls us to join in his ministry. He was crucified, died, and was raised again by God, and reigns over all Creation; and he bids us to die and rise with him in the service of the healing of the world.

We are moved by the Holy Spirit, together with the communion of saints, as members of the Body of Christ, God's holy universal church.

We are confident in the forgiveness of sin, the power of resurrection and the reality of eternal life.

In all things it is our desire to follow Christ, by the grace of the Holy Spirit, for God's glory. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI

#734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Psalm 133
read from *The Message*

MESSAGE: "How Wonderful!"

Pastor Burnett

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

***DOXOLOGY**

***DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

CLOSING SONG: "Community of Christ"

#615

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship (adapted), Opening Prayer, and Prayer of Dedication are from *Worship Ways – Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Call to Confession and Words of Assurance (adapted) are from *Lectioary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Prayer of Confession (adapted) is from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2017* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu. The Affirmation of Faith is by Steve Gamaas-Holmes

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Organist:	Mary Jo Meyers
Lector:	David Burrow
Worship Leader:	Pastor Burnett
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August Radio Sponsors: Chuck West and Becky Bibler

Birthdays: 8-20 Adeline Reynolds, 8-22 Larry Person, 8-26 Holly Filson-Heath

Announcements:

- Wednesday, the 23rd, the adult discussion group meets at 7 pm at Chuck West's.
- Saturday Pastor Burnett will be at a Pilgrim Heights board meeting.
- Next Sunday we will worship at Call State Park with a potluck to follow the service.
- Homemade cookies are needed for the freezer.
- Remember the explore space exhibit begins 8-16-17 at the Public library.
- The new September through November Our Daily Bread can be found in the Fellowship entry.