

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
June 24, 2018

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 9:9-20 read from the *Good News Bible*

***OPENING SONG:** "Give to Our God Immortal Praise" #63

SHARING JESUS' PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

One: Sing praises to God,

Many: our courage and our strength.

One: Sing praises to God,

Many: who is faithful and true.

One: Sing praises to God,

Many: that we may be steadfast in our faith and true in our discipleship.

OPENING PRAYER (read together)

Mighty God, we come to sing your praises and to strengthen our faith. Help us find our courage and strength when we need it most. Help us reclaim our faithfulness when we are filled with doubt. Help us discover our hope when we are plagued by worry and despair. May our songs rise to heaven. May they also rise in our hearts and strengthen us each and every day. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (read together)

We are at our wits' end as we try to live each day, God. We could confront the angry voices around us with peace and grace, but our courage melts away. We could see you at work in those who care for the vulnerable, but we let our fears of those who we don't understand wash our faith away. We see your grace drawing close to us and cry out, 'no further!'

Because of such lives, it is tempting to blame you, Holy One, and think you are asleep at your post. But you are the God who tells the storms of temptation to 'shush!' You are the God whose love is not just now and then, but offered to us in every moment. You are the God who, in Jesus Christ, comes to us in order to comfort us, to encourage us, and to cradle us in your peace. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

One: While we may believe God does not always have the time for us, there is not a moment that God is not listening, not forgiving, and not restoring us to grace-filled lives.

Many: This is indeed the acceptable time, to recognize, to accept, and to live out the reality that we are redeemed by our God. Thanks be to God. Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Mark 4:35-41

***MIDDLE SONG:** "How Can I Keep from Singing?" #424

***AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (read together)

We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI #734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE 1 Samuel 17:1a, 4-11, 19-23, 32-49 read from *The Message*

MESSAGE: "Five Smooth Stones"

Pastor Burtnett

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY

*DEDICATION OF OFFERING

*CLOSING SONG: "God of Grace and God of Glory"

#569

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, and Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) are from *The Abingdon Worship Annual-2018* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu. The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Affirmation of Faith is from *The United Church of Canada*.

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

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June Radio Sponsor: Pastor Chris and Pam Burtnett

Birthdays: 6-26 Corbin Habeger

Tuesday, the 26th, Pastor Burtnett will be at the Chocolate Season from 9:30 to 11:30 am

Wednesday, the 20th, Adult discussion will meet at 7 pm at Chuck West's.

Next Sunday is communion and Food Pantry collection.

Nativities set up will be held at 1 pm on Tuesday, July 10th.

Special Mission Opportunity : Sundance from July 25th through the 29th. More information will be in the Week Ahead.

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 United Church of Christ
 Algona, Iowa



"Where No One Is A Stranger"

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