

1st Congregational United Church of Christ
315 South Moore Street, Algona, Iowa
515-295-2845
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 23, 2018

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 1 from the *Common English Bible*

*OPENING SONG: “Come, We That Love the Lord” #67

SHARING JESUS' PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Our world offers many wide avenues and beautiful boulevards to walk;

Many: **Our God invites us to walk the road of service and sacrifice.**

One: Our society suggests we put down our roots in the shallow soil of pleasure and greed.

Many: **Our God seeks to plant us on the banks of hope, watered by the rivers of joy and grace.**

One: Our culture promotes achievement, success, climbing to the top, ringing the bell.

Many: **Our God tells us if we want to be first we need to go to the end of the line.**

All: We come here rejecting the ways of the world, submitting ourselves to God's wisdom and ways. Let's worship God!

OPENING PRAYER

You watch over us, God, and show us the way to prosper in life, not so much in things as in relationships that contribute to our wholeness and well-being. Meet us here in this time of worship and help us deal with our selfish ambition, disorder, and conflicts. We have come to you for instruction. Help us be honest with ourselves and with you, voicing our doubts as well as our faith, our hypocrisy along with all that is deeply genuine. Create in us a space for quiet listening and thoughtful meditation. Amen.

A TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We live in a world that looks for wisdom and understanding in all the wrong places, God. You teach us that charm is deceptive and beauty is fleeting, yet we strive for these things above the virtues of holy work, mercy, gentleness, and service. When we strive for worldly recognition and the accolades of power and wealth, forgive us. When we allow ourselves to be blown around like tumbleweeds in the wind, plant us by the waters of mercy and grace. When we follow the advice of the wicked and sit in the seat of scoffers, lead us back to the paths of life through Jesus, our guide and guardian. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

One: This is the wisdom from above: God plants in us the forgiveness and healing we need, so we might share the good harvest of joy and mercy with everyone we meet.

Many: **Bathed in the living waters, fed by the Bread of life, we are given new life and hope. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.**

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Mark 9:30-37

*MIDDLE SONG “Lord, I Want to Be a Christian” #457

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in God, Creator of all things, heavenly father and mother, Soul of infinite love, wisdom, and power, ruler of all that is and all that is to come, who is mystery, yet revealed.

We follow Christ, God's chosen one, who loved and served humbly, who healed the broken and included the outcast, who chose to suffer rather than harm for the sake of the healing of all Creation, who gave his life for our redemption, and who was raised by God to new life. In his teaching, in his death and resurrection, and in his presence with us in all circumstances, he reveals God to us. He calls us to serve him for the sake of proclaiming God's grace. We trust that he accompanies us and will help, guide, heal, and defend us through all difficulty and suffering.

We believe the Holy Spirit sustains us, and guides us and empowers us as servants of God's grace.

We live as the body of Christ, in the power of forgiveness and the reality of resurrection, and the light of eternal life. Amen.

*GLORIA PATARI

FOCUS SCRIPTURE James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a from the *Common English Bible*

MESSAGE “Double-Minded Disciples” Pastor Chris

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, SILENT PRAYER, LORD’S PRAYER

OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY**

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***CLOSING SONG** “Just a Closer Walk with Thee” #504

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship (adapted), Call to Confession, and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Opening Prayer is from *Led By Love-Worship Resources for Year B* by Lavon Bayler. The Prayer of Confession and Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) are from *The Abingdon Worship Annual-2018* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu. The Affirmation of Faith is by Steve Garnass-Holmes.

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

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September Radio Sponsor: Dennis and Connie Schwab

Birthdays: 9-26 - Margaret Herbst, Derek Person

Newsletter articles are due in the office by Friday, September 28.

Pastor Chris will be on vacation September 24-October 1. Gene Miller will be filling our pulpit on Sunday. Karen Dearchs will be on call for any pastoral care needs.

The Algona Area CROP Walk will take place on Sunday, October 14th. Walker Donation Envelopes and other materials are on one of the tables in the parlor.



**Show by
your good life
that your works
are done with
gentleness
born of wisdom.**

James 3:13, NRSV

