

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 30, 2018

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE FIRST READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Psalm 124

***OPENING SONG:** "We Gather Together"

#81

SHARING JESUS' PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

Leader: God is calling us; God has called us together.

People: Give thanks to God, for God is good. God's steadfast love endures forever.

Leader: God is eager to put loving arms around us. God is waiting to satisfy our hunger and our thirst.

People: God fills the hungry with good things. We are filled to overflowing.

Leader: Set your minds on things that are above. Put away your earthly disobedience.

People: God leads us to new identity, to new life. We are here to worship and seek renewal in the image of our Creator.

OPENING PRAYER

(read together)

In you, O God, we put our trust. God of the living Church, forgive, renew, perfect and move within our lives. Teach us to walk with Christ through the distractions that on a daily basis tempt us to go in other directions. Help us to truly worship you this hour and each and every day of our lives. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(read together)

God of watchful care, you have offered us your life-giving presence, yet we do not always respond. Your abundance sometimes overwhelms us; your faithfulness oftentimes confounds and bewilders us. You show us in Jesus the humanity you hope can be ours. Its good intent asks so much of us that if we forget to rely on the movement of your Spirit we may easily grow discouraged.

God of grace, forgive us and teach us better ways of living and doing. Make us better disciples. Redeem us from our mistakes. Help us to be more faithful and hear us as we earnestly pray these things through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, in whose name we pray. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

Leader: Hear these words. God's hope is more tenacious than our despair; God's joy is more resilient than our grief; God's love is more compelling than our hate.

People: God loves us. God forgives us. God lifts us to new life. Thanks be to God. Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

James 5: 13 - 20

***MIDDLE SONG:** "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

#48

***AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

(read together)

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Front of Hymnal

GLORIA PATRI

#734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Esther 7: 1-6, 9-10 & 9:20-22

MESSAGE: "Esther Saves Her People"

Dr. Gene E. Miller

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY**

Words #44

***DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

***CLOSING SONG: "Go, My Children, with My Blessing"**

#719

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

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Organist: Liz Reynolds

Lector: David Burrow

Worship Leader: Dr. Gene E. Miller

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September Radio Sponsor: Dennis and Connie Schwab

Birthdays:

Pastor Burtnett will be at the Chocolate season Tuesday morning.

Coalition meeting at noon on Tuesday, 10-2-18

The Adult discussion group will meet Wednesday at 7 pm at Chuck West's

Next Sunday communion and food pantry collections will occur and there will also be a baptism during the service

**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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