

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
Algona, Iowa  
Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost  
October 21, 2018

## PRELUDE

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING** Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c from the *Common English Bible*

**\*OPENING SONG:** “O Worship the King” #2

## SHARING JESUS’ PEACE

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (read responsively)

One: When God laid the foundations of the earth, the stars and heavenly host sang songs of joy.

**Many: We gather here to bless God with hearts full of song, for our God has done amazing things!**

One: The winds whisper messages of God’s goodness. Fire and flame proclaim God’s presence.

**Many: We gather here to bless God with our spirits set ablaze, for our God has done amazing things!**

One: With wisdom, God brought the world into being. The earth is full of God’s magnificent creations.

**Many: We gather here to bless God with our minds illumined, for our God has done amazing things!**

**OPENING PRAYER** (read together)

God of all creation, when we consider the world and all that is in it, we marvel at the work of your hands. How is it that you, who placed the earth on its foundations and who summoned the seas and clouds, care for us so deeply? In this time of worship, we yearn to be touched by your majesty and glory. We bring our questions and our passionate prayers. Just as you spoke to Job from the whirlwind, speak to us now. Breathe new life into us through your creative Spirit, that we might join the winds, fire, and flame in proclaiming your power and glory. Amen.  
seat of grace.

## TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

## CALL TO CONFESSION

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (read together)

**We think we know so much, God. We think we know how the world works. We think we know how you work. When we speak without knowledge; when we question what we cannot understand; when we force you into a box we can comprehend, forgive us. When we forget your call to serve one another; when we place our needs before the needs of others; when we expect you to do whatever we ask, forgive us. Free us from the tyranny of our assumptions and the prison of our expectations, that we may follow as your people, remembering that you alone are God. Amen.**

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE** (read responsively)

One: Our God deals gently with those who stumble, who lose their way, and who get dazzled by wanting power and glory. That is the good news for us. We are forgiven, and graced with new life.

**Many: Thanks be to God, who is the home of our hearts, who fills us with grace and mercy in every moment. Amen.**

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING** Mark 10:35-45

**\*MIDDLE SONG:** “Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service ” #575

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

**In spite of many unanswered questions, we believe.**

**We believe in the living God, the joy of the universe, who is the pulse and purpose of all things seen and unseen, who from the dust of earth calls up living beings to be children of eternity, who through countless ages has provided for us many liberators and tirelessly seeks to bring victory out of defeat and life out of decay.**

**We believe in Jesus the Christ, God’s Son, who is bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh, who took upon himself the healing of the human race, who bearing the burden of our sins went to Golgotha carrying his cross, who was betrayed, crucified, dead and buried in a borrowed tomb, who on the third day was found to be gloriously alive, meeting with those who trust him and serve him to the end of the world.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, within and among all who cherish Jesus and his way, who brings hope out of despair, love out of apathy, and joy out of sorrow, who unceasingly regenerates and reforms the church that it may always be the contemporary body of the risen Christ, loving the world through prayer, word and deed.**

We believe that even we are caught up in the resurgent life of Christ Jesus, and that nothing in life or death can separate me from his love and joy.

In spite of unanswered questions, yes we believe. Amen!

GLORIA PATRI #734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE Job 38:1-7, 34-41 from the *Common English Bible*

MESSAGE: "Questions and Answers" Pastor Burtnett

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**OFFERING**

\*DOXOLOGY Words #44

\*DEDICATION OF OFFERING

\*CLOSING SONG: "God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand" #728

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

The Call to Worship (adapted), Opening Prayer, 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. are from . The Call to Confession, and Words of Assurance, are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman The Affirmation of Faith is by Bruce Prewer.

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

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October Radio Sponsor: Gregg and Julie Buchanan

Sunday 5 pm Strengthening Families meal  
Monday ExOp here  
Thursday Pastor Burtnett will be in Humbolt for a Clergy Cluster meeting  
Next Sunday Potluck and possible work day

A reminder to bring linens and towels, new or slightly used , and place them in the front pews. These will be given to the Care Team before Thanksgiving.  
Also, a reminder that the women's fellowship will again be doing the spring Trash, Treasure and Bake sale. Items can be put in the southeast basement room of the fellowship hall.

# First Congregational Church United Church of Christ Algona, Iowa



**"Where No One Is A Stranger"**

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