

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost
November 4, 2018

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 24 from the *Common English Bible*

*OPENING SONG: "Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates" #176

SHARING JESUS' PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

One: Come, let's offer thanks and praise to our God, the One we have waited for.

Many: **Let's be glad and rejoice in our salvation.**

One: Come, feast on rich food and dine on fine wine.

Many: **Enjoy the blessings of Jesus and vindication from our God.**

One: Come! Let's worship God.

OPENING PRAYER (read together)

God of new beginnings, remove the shroud that separates us from one another and from your mighty presence, that we may see you as you are. Wipe away our tears and take away our disgrace, that we may come before your throne with hearts full of song and souls ablaze with joy. Help us to live as those who are prepared to die, and enable us to die as those who go forth to live, so that whether living or dying, our hearts will always belong to you. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (read together)

We come to you, Listener of our broken lives, with our hands soiled with the pain we have caused, with our ears stuffed with the words of those who speak falsely, with our hearts stained with those lusts and hungers we would be embarrassed for others to know.

Forgive us and have mercy on us, Wiper of our tears. As we seek to journey from the baptismal waters towards the feast you prepare in glory, may we turn our faces toward you in every moment, listen to your words in the depths of our hearts, and follow Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, every step of the way. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

One: Lift up your heads, saints of God! Your sin is gone, your hands once full of foolishness are now empty. God has clothed you with garments of joy to wear to the feast.

Many: **Our former life has passed, our new life in Christ has begun. All things are new - including us! Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.**

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING John 11:32-44

*MIDDLE SONG: "As We Gather at Your Table" #695

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (read together) inside back cover of hymnal

GLORIA PATRI #734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE Isaiah 25:6-9 from *The Message*

MESSAGE: "Saints in Waiting" Pastor Burtnett

GATHERING AT JESUS' TABLE

Invitation, Communion Prayer, *Sanctus*, Words of Institution, Consecration Prayer, Lord's Prayer, Sharing the Bread and Cup

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Creative, connecting God, you have sent your Spirit and made us the body of Christ; From child-like faith, to youthful energy, from middle-aged mindfulness, to elder's wisdom. We thank you for this time, this remembrance. Increase our faith. Help us to love. Encourage us to act. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY**

***DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

***CLOSING SONG:** “Two Thousand Years Since Bethlehem” #540

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

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

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

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November Radio Sponsor: David Burrow in memory of his parents

Birthdays: 11-4 Christine Burtnett, 11-10 Laura TerHark
 Today – 10:00 am. Worship with Communion, Food Pantry, Congregational Budget meeting
 Fellowship coffee and cookies
 Monday- 11:00 am. Exceptional Opportunities
 Tuesday- 9:30-11:30 am. Chocolate Season
 Wednesday- 5:30 7 pm Adult Discussion at Chuck West’s
 Saturday-
 Sunday – 9:00a m. Seekers, 10 am Worship and Stewardship Sunday
 Mission and Stewardship meeting after church



**THEIR EYES WERE OPENED, AND THEY
RECOGNIZED THE RISEN CHRIST IN THE
BREAKING OF THE BREAD.**